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HALIFAX • WEEKEND, MARCH 20-22, 2009 metronews.ca

Sports pg 15

QMJHL playoffs have local flavour

Clinton makes another stop in Halifax

POLITICS Bill Clinton is coming back to Halifax. The former U.S. president is returning May 28 to share his insights on the global economy.

Clinton, who spoke at the Halifax Metro Centre three years ago, will appear at the Halifax Cunard Centre from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.



Bill Clinton

Former New Brunswick premier Frank McKenna, who is the current deputy chair of TD Bank Financial Group, will moderate a question and answer period with Clinton.

For info and tickets call 1-866-994-2555. **METRO HALIFAX**

Riding the Recession

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

• Entertainment
How the recession is changing the musical landscape for fans, music publications and even TV, pg 24

• Next week
Canada — We introduce you to some businesses that seem to be bucking the current economic trends.



'The whole place was lit up'

Early morning blaze in converted house sends 11 out into the cold

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax

A fire in an apartment building in north-end Halifax interrupted a late-night study session Thursday morning.

"The girls on the second floor smelt it or saw it and banged on our door," said Dalhousie student Jonathan Weinberg. He and his three third-floor roommates raced out the front door of 2468 Robie St. shortly after midnight as the fire roared up the back of the building, heavily damaging the bottom two floors of the converted Georgian house.

"This whole thing was on fire," he said, gesturing to the rear of the building.

"We saw it pouring out of the sides. The whole place was lit up."

Weinberg estimated 11 people lived in the building, with students on the

upper two floors.

Most found overnight accommodation with friends and the Red Cross put two people up in hotels.

Weinberg was back at his flat later on Thursday. "It smells really awful," he said, adding he wasn't sure if he wanted to stay there.

Ted Larsen, the Progressive Conservative candidate for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island, owns the building.

He was on the scene just after midnight and said it appeared to have been an accidental

fire. The building is structurally sound, he noted.

"There's no reason the tenants can't stay there," he said, adding they can opt out of renting if they want.

Halifax Regional Fire Service Capt. Dave Meldrum said the department was still investigating the cause of the fire as of press time Thursday.

"The girls on the second floor smelt it or saw it and banged on our door ... This whole thing was on fire."

Jonathan Weinberg, tenant



Dalhousie student Jonathan Weinberg walks down the fire escape from his third-floor apartment on Robie Street Thursday. The house was damaged by an early morning fire.

Police work goes to the dogs after car chase

PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

A shout-out, or should we say bark-out, to RCMP police dog Ronin.

The three-year-old German Sheppard (pictured at right) was instrumental



in apprehending two youth suspects Wednesday night after a vehicle fled from police on Portland Street in Dartmouth, then later exited into the Burnside area.

The stolen vehicle lost control at Garland and Wright Avenue with two males fleeing on foot.

An integrated RCMP officer was near the scene and saw the two men leaving the car.

The officer immediately got Ronin from his vehicle

and together they went in search of the suspects through thick brush. Ronin quickly tracked down one suspect, and later located a second and both were taken into custody.

A third male was arrested inside the stolen vehicle

without incident.

Two 16-year-olds and a 14-year-old will appear in court on theft/possession over \$5,000 and evading police charges.

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WEEKEND SPECIALS FRI-SUN

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**SHOPPERS
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Aboriginal women in business conference begins Sunday

The Balance '09 Aboriginal Women in Business Conference and Trade Show is taking place Sunday through Tuesday at the Westin Nova Scotia in Halifax. The event will attract more than 250 delegates. **METRO HALIFAX**

3

Local

Classified at The Palace

Enfield's Classified is celebrating the release of his new album *Self-Explanatory* with a performance at The Palace on June 5 at 10 p.m. Special guests include Chad Hatcher, Mic Boyd, J-Bru and DJ IV. Tickets go on sale Friday at 10 a.m. at all Ticketpro outlets and cost \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the show. **METRO HALIFAX**

Boardwalk shut down

Construction not expected to affect summer festivals

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

A section of boardwalk on the Halifax waterfront will be shut down for months for a \$1-million replacement, but is not expected to affect summer festivals.

The area behind the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic has already been fenced off. It will stay that way until June 30 as the stretch of boardwalk and wharfs are entirely replaced.

The area will then reopen for most of July and August for the Tall Ships and Busker festivals, then close again to finish.

"We've already put into place the planning we would need to make sure the festivals can still go ahead," said Jasmine Marshall of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

"They're going to approach it in three phases, and the boardwalk will be the first priority. We may not be able to, for example, open up the wharfs (on June 30)."

The area is supposed to reopen from the beginning



Work has begun on the wharfs and boardwalk behind the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The project will take five months to complete and the boardwalk and wharfs will be closed during the project, except between June 30 and Aug. 16 to accommodate the Tall Ships and Buskers festivals.

of July to Aug. 16. It will then close again until the project is done, which is scheduled for the end of August.

In the meantime, people walking along the waterfront will have to go up to Lower Water Street to get around the museum.

"It's a very minor detour," said Marshall.

"You're basically just going around the building and you can head right back onto the boardwalk."

The waterfront will also look different because of another nearby project — the renovation of Murphy's on the Water.

Construction there has been ongoing throughout the winter and is due to

wrap up in May. Once complete, there will be a much more vibrant exterior, says Murphy's general manager Jeff Farwell.

Changes include a new colour to the building, more lighting and a canopy system so the restaurant, which currently operates seasonally, can run all year round.

Stanfield's proposes four-day workweek

A reduced workweek is being explored at one of Truro's oldest companies in the wake of a soft retail climate.

Stanfield's Limited notified its employees this

week of a plan to go to a four-day workweek in 11 of its departments. The company will be applying to Service Canada for the job share program.

"It's really in the best

benefit of the employees," said president Jon Stanfield.

"They can earn about 90 per cent of their wage and also it keeps them working and it doesn't include lay-

offs."

Service Canada's application process takes about a month to six weeks so the four-day workweeks could start in mid-April.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

News in brief

CRIME The RCMP is investigating a rash of break-ins from vehicles in Cole Harbour. Contact the RCMP, Halifax police or Crime Stoppers if you have any information on these thefts.

METRO HALIFAX

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video Montreal students join an effort to convert milk bags to sleeping mats for developing countries at metronews.ca/canada

Howard Epstein

MLA Halifax Chebucto

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This Friday's Jackpot:



alc.ca

Know your limit. Play within it.

Feed Nova Scotia along with other local food banks in Halifax is part of a two-week national food drive by Loblaw (Atlantic Superstore). Running Friday through April 2, Superstore locations throughout HRM will accept both non-perishable food and cash donations and give to local food banks. **METRO HALIFAX**

Flipping over pogo sticks

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

Perhaps the first person in the world to do a mid-air flip on a pogo stick was in Halifax Thursday showing off his skills.

His name is Daniel Mahoney. He's from Truro. And he's 15 years old.

"I was actually the first person in the world to prove that I landed it," he said.

"There was no one that had really claimed they'd done it before ... I get claims to being the first because no one else has put up a video saying it was before me."

Mahoney was at the Maritime Museum of Atlantic Thursday, entertaining visitors by doing front flips and back flips with ease. He uses a specialty Vurtego pogo stick — him and his brother sell the sticks at Vurtego.ca — that allows him to get up to eight feet of height.

He began by taking springs off of a stick and practising on a trampoline. Once he perfected the flips



Daniel Mahoney from Truro does a flip on his pogo stick at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic yesterday. Mahoney recently appeared on the Ellen show.

he moved to grass and then concrete.

It eventually got him flown down to Los Angeles for Ellen DeGeneres' talk show this January.

He has had a couple incidents. He once got a concussion when his pogo stick

broke through a board he was bouncing on.

And the day after he was on Ellen he landed badly while street pogoing and pulled several muscles in his legs.

But he still loves it. "There's always this

freeze time. You're up there and it just stops. That's the funnest part," he said.

VideoOnline

Watch Daniel in action at
metronews.ca/local

Time to get on the ball for climate change: MP

Another study on the suspected impact of global warming has Bill Casey growing increasingly concerned for low-lying areas along the Bay of Fundy.

A study published earlier this week in the scientific journal Nature Geoscience suggests Nova Scotia and

"(Climate change) will have an even greater impact on the Bay of Fundy."

Bill Casey, MP

"Now is the time to start

assessing the problems and planning remedial action, not later when there is a crisis," the Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley MP said, adding there are now several reports suggesting there will be sea level problems in the bay caused by global warming. "It's just another signal, another warning that we have to get on the ball."

The study, prepared by Jianjun Yin of the Centre for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies at Florida State University, Michael E.

Schlesinger of the Climate Research Group at the University of Illinois, and Ronald J. Stouffer of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory at Princeton, used computer models and sea current studies to predict the northeastern coast of North America will experience higher sea level increases than any other area of the planet.

The scientists said climate change

will not only cause ice to melt, but will also affect ocean currents. This, coupled with the geography of the ocean floor, will in turn generate even greater increases in the sea levels along the northeast coast of the continent.

"This will have an even greater impact on the Bay of Fundy due to the exaggerated tides here," Casey said.

Casey received a commitment from Environment Minister Jim Prentice to explore remedial steps that can be taken. **AMHERST DAILY NEWS**

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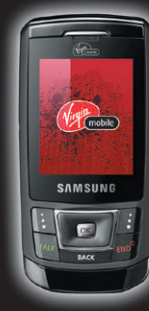
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the **Bay**

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Stimulus plan lacks green foresight: EAC

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax

Nova Scotia's \$1.9-billion economic stimulus plan all but ignores the Progressive Conservatives' own ecological goals, according to the Ecology Action Centre.

Cheryl Ratchford, energy co-ordinator for the EAC, said the only green spending in the March 11 plan is \$50 million allocated to energy conservation. That's just 2.6 per cent of the total.

"We look at this (stimulus package) as an opportunity to start building the infrastructure we need to be economically and environmentally prosperous in the future," she said Thursday. "What we've seen in that announcement is a very significant and con-

cerning lost opportunity."

The EAC said Premier Rodney MacDonald should have put money toward things like upgrading the rail line between Central Nova and Cape Breton, a sustainable coastal-development strategy and forestry.

Ratchford was particularly disappointed with the lack of commitment to renewable energy in Nova Scotia, saying the spending flies in the face of the government's 2007 policy, Economic Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act.

"This isn't in line at all," she said. "There's no point throwing money at economy and paving roads and twinning roads that we might not even have the economic capacity to sustain."

"What we've seen in that announcement (stimulus plan) is a very significant and concerning lost opportunity."

EAC's energy co-ordinator Cheryl Ratchford

Honour children: Singer



RON TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax

Raffi Cavoukian may be best known for his children's music, but the entertainer and environmentalist is now pointing his guitar at adults.

"It's adults' responsibility to create a world fit for children. Your kids' job is play," Raffi said. "They're busy doing what they need to do. We, adults, have the responsibility to create a world that provides and supports their reasonable right to breathe, to clean, nutritious food, to clean water."

The "global troubadour" who brought us Baby Beluga was in Halifax Thursday to join a panel discussion on ecological sustainability at Dalhousie University. He stopped by Metro's office to explain his vision of "child honouring" as environmental strategy.

"Children are the most valuable and vulnerable members of society," he said. "As long as people think ecology is about air,

Download

- Go to Raffinews.com to download the Covenant for Honouring Children and music from Resist Dancing, Raffi's current CD.

water and soil, not much action is going to happen. It's the most potent thing we can do in terms of sustainability: Think of someone you love and think of it as love for generations."

Raffi links global warming to advertising to children. He notes \$17 billion is spent annually in the U.S. alone selling stuff to kids under the age of 13.

"Right from birth, they are being logo-branded," he said, expressing amazement and anger that this is legal in Canada. "They're not old enough to understand what you are selling them. Isn't that morally repugnant?"

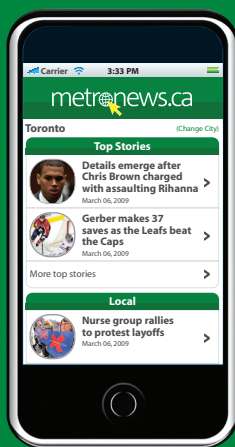
Apart from the "moral and spiritual violation of the child's spirit, you're creating a condition where the shopping impulse is there at an early age."

Singer/songwriter Raffi Cavoukian speaks with Metro Halifax about environmental-sustainability and child-honouring philosophy Thursday. Raffi was in town to speak at Dalhousie's Dialogue for Change event.

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The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia will host a free public art forum next Thursday at 6 p.m. The purpose of the forum is to encourage discussions about public art in the Halifax Regional Municipality. A four-member panel will present topics during the forum. **METRO HALIFAX**

Manure dump has some steamed

ENVIRONMENT The P.E.I. government is launching an immediate investigation into the dumping of 40 to 50 loads of manure on land near the West Royal Industrial Park in Charlottetown.

The manure, which was still steaming, was dumped near a subdivision and not far from streams that lead into the North River. The issue came to light during a town hall

meeting on Prince Edward Island's water supply Wednesday night in Charlottetown.

A man who would only identify himself as Vincent because he feared retaliation from the farmer told the panel at the town hall that he was outraged when he saw the farmer dumping the manure. He approached the farmer, and started taking pictures before he was abruptly

Caught unaware

• Environment Minister Richard Brown, who was at the town hall meeting Wednesday, said he wasn't aware of the situation until Vincent raised it Wednesday night.

ordered to leave the property.

"I'm concerned about

the consequences," said Vincent, who moved to P.E.I. from Spain. "Why does he have to dump it there, next to this little brook?"

The dumping of the manure near a busy Charlottetown highway dominated the meeting, which Charlottetown MP Shawn Murphy called to discuss the future of the Island's water supply.

CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN



Visitors to the Halifax Farmers' Market pick up some produce in this file photo from 2005.

Markets get seed money

\$1.2M of assistance coming

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

Farmers markets and local food producers will receive \$1.267 million from the provincial government.

Some of that money will go towards helping the Halifax Farmers' Market move to a new location at Pier 20. The market has outgrown its current location in the Keith's Brewery, seeing about 6,000 customers each week.

The new location would offer twice as much space and allow the market to open six days per week, instead of only Saturdays. The total cost of the new location is \$10 million, much of which has already been raised.

The project has garnered funding support from all three levels of govern-

ment. Yesterday's announcement targeted direct food marketers around the province.

Four other projects will also receive funding.

Taproot Farms in Port Williams, Kings Co., will get money to launch a community-shared agriculture venture and build a commercial kitchen and roadside stand.

O'Connell's Family Farm in Upper Stewiacke will receive funding to upgrade its meat-cutting facility and develop a stable location for the Stewiacke Valley Farmers' market.

The Cape Breton Farmers' Market in Sydney River will get help for renovation.

The Celtic Country Market in Bras d'Or will get money towards expanding for value-added processing and marketing local products.

News in brief

COURT A Nova Scotia Human Rights Board of Inquiry has ruled that the forced retirement at age 65 of a long-time Cape Breton Regional Municipality worker was lawful. William Talbot was forced to retire from the CBRM water department in 2004, at age 65. He was 68 when his complaint was heard by an independent human rights board of inquiry chaired by Cynthia Chewter last

September. He filed a complaint of age discrimination against both the CBRM and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 759. Talbot was a member of the union and signed a collective agreement with his employer, which included the mandatory retirement policy. Chewter's decision was dated March 6th and released publicly. **CAPE BRETON POST**

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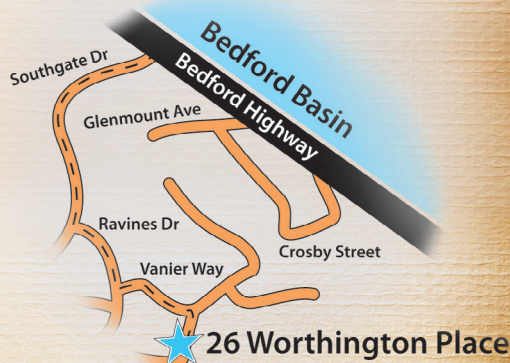


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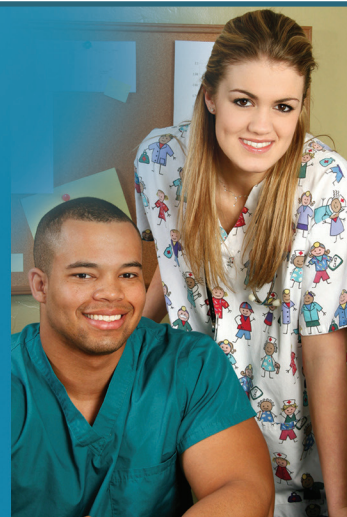
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Saint Vincent's Nursing Home
(902) 429.0550

Shannex
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• Maplestone Enhanced Care
• Parkstone Enhanced Care

Dartmouth

Oakwood Terrace
(902) 469.3702

Ocean View Manor
(902) 465.6020

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Comcare Health Services
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(902) 496.0103

RJF HealthCare
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Centre for Health Studies
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Compu College
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**Nova Scotia
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www.novascotiacca.ca

Canada



TSB examining crash data

The Transportation Safety Board said Thursday it has everything it needs to determine what caused a Cougar Helicopters aircraft to plunge into the North Atlantic one week ago, killing 17 people. The TSB's lead investigator told CBC that the recovery of the wreckage has been so swift that investigators have not had time to analyze what they have collected. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Immigrants fare better in suburbs

New study finds big cities are struggling to meet labour needs

Recent immigrants in smaller suburban communities are faring better than those setting roots in big cities when it comes to jobs, incomes and home-ownership, says a new study that measures newcomers' life quality across Canada.

While the majority of all types of immigrants still settle in big cities, an increasing number of established immigrants — those who come under the economic class as investors and skilled professionals — are headed to smaller com-

"We need a new collaborative approach to immigration policy and settlement."

Jean Perrault, mayor of Sherbrooke, Que.

munities. Also, immigrants here as dependants under family unifications, or as refugees, are more likely to concentrate in big cities, said the report, released Thursday by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The number of newcomers settling in Toronto suburbs, for example, grew by an average of 72.5 per cent in 2006, while Toronto re-

ceived 29 per cent fewer newcomers in the same period, as did other traditional gateway cities, such as Vancouver, Montreal and Ottawa.

The suburbanization trends, partially a result of Ottawa's push to spread immigrants evenly across the country, have led to a lose-lose situation for large and small communities

alike: While big cities are finding it harder to meet their labour needs with the exodus of well-educated and highly skilled immigrants, their smaller counterparts struggle to accommodate the influx.

"This report shows we need a new collaborative approach to immigration policy and settlement," said the municipal federation's president, Jean Perrault, mayor of Sherbrooke, Que. "Municipal governments are where immigrants go first for help, but we are not consulted

on immigration policies or programs and we do not have the resources to provide the needed services. It's time for a change."

The federation, which represents 1,775 municipalities covering 90 per cent of the population, said municipalities need federal funding to provide culturally sensitive services, such as translating garbage pickup schedules, more affordable housing, recreational programs, public health services and new ways to deliver services to newcomers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Schools offer free tuition to top students

EDUCATION In a play for top students as the economy bottoms out, two Ontario universities will give free tuition this fall to high school students with marks in the 90s.

Lakehead University in Thunder Bay has seen a 50 per cent jump this year in applicants with high school marks of at least 95 per cent, after it pledged to offer them free tuition this year and for each year after in which they score at least 85 per cent.

Trent University in Peterborough has received a flood of calls about its recent offer of free tuition to high school students with a 90 per cent average — a prize worth about \$5,000, with the promise of \$3,000 more each year if the student keeps an A average.

"With the job market the way it is and families seeing their investments go south, we're trying to up the ante as students weigh their options," said Christopher Michael, registrar at Trent, which saw overall high school applications drop eight per cent this year. "Competition among universities for students is very aggressive."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Contest

Rant and roar

• Memorial University in St. John's, N.L., is offering free tuition, books and cash up to a total of \$10,000, to the student who submits the best one-minute Rick Mercer-styled rant.

Ottawa may help broadcasters

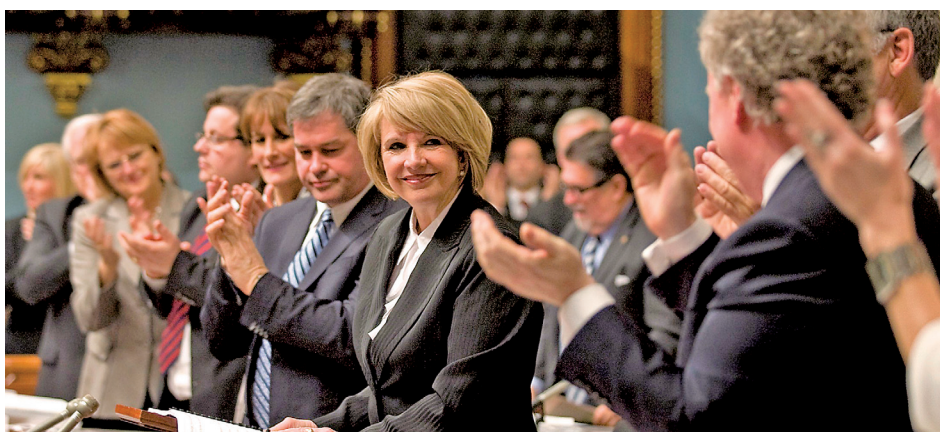
MEDIA The Canadian government is ready to stop the financial bleeding of the country's big media — or at least to try.

A spokesperson for the federal Heritage department confirmed Thursday that Ottawa has drawn up plans for regulatory and tax changes to help major broadcasters deal with a

growing shortfall in TV advertising revenue.

"We have always been mindful of the difficulties that have hit the broadcasting industry, and (want to) keep our options open," Heritage press secretary Stephanie Rea said, adding that no funding commitments have yet been made.

REUTERS



Quebec Finance Minister Monique Jerome-Forget, centre, acknowledges applause as she unveils the province's new budget at the National Assembly Thursday in Quebec City.

Quebec will spend to fight economic crisis

POLITICS Quebec's Liberal government said Thursday it would run budget deficits for the next four years and predicted the economy would shrink in 2009, but also promised to boost spending to help fend off the global crisis.

The largely French-speaking province of 7.5

million, which relies heavily on exports to the United States, said its main priority was to stimulate the economy and protect jobs. Eliminating the deficit will take second place for now.

Finance Minister Monique Jerome-Forget said Quebec would run a \$3.9-billion deficit in the

2009-10 fiscal year — the first since 2004 — and would stay in the red until the 2013-14 budget. She had already said there would be a deficit.

"Our priority at this time must be to limit the impact of the recession on our jobs, even at the price of deficits."

REUTERS

News in brief

FLOODING North Dakota's Red River Valley is facing a serious flooding risk next week, putting southern Manitoba at risk. Flooding at the Canadian end of the valley will be severe, officials in Manitoba said earlier this week. Farmland and a major highway may be under water for three weeks, Manitoba officials said.

FLAG DEBATE Some Ontario politicians are upset the province has purchased provin-

cial flags from China instead of flags made in the province. "It would be an insult for me to give this flag to any community group. This is shameful, embarrassing, pathetic, rude, insulting," said NDP MPP Peter Kormos.

GUNS Conservative MP Garry Breitkreuz has cancelled a speaking engagement at a gun lobby dinner featuring a Beretta handgun as a raffle prize. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Son of cartel leader captured: Mexico

Mexico said Thursday it had captured the drug smuggler son of a leader of Mexico's powerful Sinaloa cartel, one of the highest-profile catches of the government's two-year war on drug gangs. **REUTERS**

11

World



Lab mishaps raise security fears

Lab accidents involving bird flu and Ebola viruses have increased biosecurity fears in Europe, where public health experts say research on dangerous pathogens needs to be more strictly monitored. A scientist in Germany last week pricked herself with a needle that was believed to be contaminated with a strain of the Ebola haemorrhagic virus with a mortality rate of around 90 per cent.

REUTERS

Protesters in France denounce Sarkozy

ECONOMY Hundreds of thousands of people across France on Thursday began protests expected to draw at least a million demonstrators to the streets to denounce President Nicolas Sarkozy's handling of the economic crisis.

The protests, which polls show are backed by three quarters of the French public, reflect growing disillusionment with Sarkozy's pledges of reform.

The crisis has sent the number of jobless past two million and left many people struggling with the high cost of living.

Transport, energy and some government offices were all affected as workers went off the job, although there was no general shutdown of the economy. Most businesses and public services functioned at close to normal levels.

REUTERS

Bin Laden rails against president

SOMALIA Al Qaida leader Osama bin Laden urged Somalis in a new audio tape on Thursday to topple the new president, who is already struggling to deal with insurgents in the lawless country.

Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, a moderate Islamist elected this year in the 15th attempt to form a central government, has been trying to reach out to rebels.

REUTERS

AIG provides recipient list

Group complies with subpoena demanding names, details

American International Group Inc., complying with a subpoena, provided details of bonus recipients to New York attorney general Andrew Cuomo, his office said Thursday.

"I have received the list of AIG Financial Products employees who received retention payouts," said Cuomo, the state's top legal officer who had set a deadline of the end of the business day.

"We are aware of the security concerns of AIG em-

ployees, and we will be sensitive to those issues by doing a risk assessment before releasing any individual's name," he said.

For months, Cuomo has been pressing for details on the billions of dollars paid to executives at several banks that received U.S. government bailout money. His probe is intended to determine whether the companies broke securities laws on disclosure.

At AIG, \$165 million US

Strong message

- In the face of public outrage at the fact that AIG paid bonuses after receiving government aid, the House voted 328-93 to approve a 90 per cent tax on bonuses for executives at companies that are getting taxpayer-financed help.

in bonuses were paid to executives that brought the company close to collapse.

REUTERS

Ex-president indicted for rape

ISRAEL Former Israeli president Moshe Katsav was indicted on Thursday for rape and other sexual offences against three women who used to work for him, charges that he denies. The indictment filed at Tel Aviv District Court accuses Katsav of twice raping and, on another occasion, molesting a staffer while he was tourism minister in 1996-1999.

In 2000, Katsav sexually molested two other employees, according to the indictment.

REUTERS

Washington Celebrating ladies



U.S. first lady Michelle Obama greets actress Fran Drescher, second from right, and singer Sheryl Crow, centre, at the White House celebrating Women's History Month in Washington Thursday. Women at the top of their fields joined the first lady in speaking with students about goals.

Fritzl sentenced to life in psychiatric ward

COURTS Josef Fritzl was sentenced to life in a psychiatric institution on Thursday for locking up and raping his daughter over 24 years, fathering seven children with her, and causing the death of an infant son. "I accept the verdict," the 73-year-old Austrian told the court after the unanimous decision by the three-man, five-woman jury in St Poelten.

The trial outcome cannot be appealed.

Court officials said Fritzl would return to St. Poelten jail for the time being

pending transfer to an institution for mentally ill offenders where he could get therapy.

They said his condition would be re-evaluated in 15 years and, in theory, if he were deemed cured, he could be released.

Fritzl had pleaded guilty in the four-day trial to incest, rape, enslavement, coercion and murder, by neglect for confining his daughter, now 42, in a purpose-built, windowless cellar under his home for almost a quarter century.

REUTERS

U.S. could stop missile: Official

MILITARY The United States could intercept a North Korean missile launched toward U.S. territory with "high probability" the top U.S. commander for the Pacific region said Thursday.

Speaking to a U.S. panel amid North Korean prepa-

rations for what Pyongyang has said will be a satellite launch in early April, U.S. Pacific Commander Timothy Keating and other senior officers stressed American capabilities with out revealing intentions.

REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Don't get shocked by energy salesmen

Marketplace

Wendy Mesley

metronews.ca/mesley

In an investigation, CBC News: Marketplace has exposed the tactics used by door-to-door salespeople working for some big energy companies.

Most everyone has heard complaints about sales agents selling contracts for natural gas and electricity, and using their powers of persuasion to get you to sign up and lock in to a fixed price. It's a decision that could save or cost you hundreds of dollars.

With so much at stake, the sales people are supposed to follow provincial codes of conduct governing their behaviour during the sales pitch.

The rules state they can't

On the web

How not to get had:

- Read Wendy Mesley's tip sheet on how not to get

mislead consumers, make false statements, misrepresent who they are, nor can they exert undue pressure.

But during sales pitches caught on tape in a hidden camera investigation, every sales agent is seen overstepping the rules.

One salesperson record-

sucked in by the high pressure sales tactics employed by some.

ed during the investigation promises that signing up for an electricity contract would lead to savings: "In five years guaranteed. There's no way the price of hydro is going to stay the same as it is today."

In fact, over the last 10 years, when comparing the

best gas prices of retailers to the prices of the public utility in Ontario, 44 per cent of the time consumers would have lost money by locking in; 56 per cent of the time, they would have saved. As for electricity, consumers have fared far worse. Using Ontario data since August 2005, fully 100 per cent of the time consumers would have lost money by signing up for even the best retailer rate compared to the public utility.

Shane Pospisil of the Ontario Energy Association is a top lobbyist for the industry. He concedes that the pitches caught on camera misrepresent the contract being offered. "We would find this behaviour unacceptable," and adds that "major self-regulatory initiatives (are) underway."

Wendy Mesley is a co-host of CBC News: Marketplace, Canada's award-winning consumer affairs show, and a regular back-up host with CBC News: The National. CBC News: Marketplace airs each Friday night at 8:30 p.m. on CBC Television.

Views

Cut the bus-driving, seal-bashing guy some slack

UrbanCompass

Paul McLeod

metronews.ca/mcleod

To non-Metro Transit regulars, a bus driver stopping his bus to publicly club a fake seal seems a little odd.

And it is, even by public transportation standards. But non-bus riders just can't understand the crazy world these bus drivers live in.

Every Metro Transit regular has their stories. Once I had to catch a 90-year-old man in my arms to keep him from falling (not as romantic as it sounds). Faulty

breaks once caused my bus to roll towards oncoming traffic. One time a guy threatened to throw coffee at a bus driver's face (much more romantic than it sounds.)

And then there are the crazy characters, like the guy who is always loudly ranting about how he hates Nova Scotia. (Guy, if you're reading this, please just move to Alberta already as you keep threatening.)

It's a jungle in there. A packed, less than punctual jungle. And consider the actual scary stuff. Bus drivers are sometimes assaulted and have rocks thrown at them.

On last New Year's Eve masked men hopped on one bus and unleashed

pepper spray over people.

Can we really blame a driver for carrying around a baton, or that the baton just happened to be the perfect seal-clubbing length?

Yes, it was a stupid move. But the guy didn't fly off the handle into a mammal-bludgeoning rage. He did it for a laugh.

Witnesses said the driver joked about the act before and afterwards. Global News caught the whole thing on camera and he clearly wasn't angry.

Did he really do anything that bad? Sure, some of the seal hunt protesters want him charged, but no reasonable person thinks he broke any laws. And if anything that fake seal was false advertising. The sign

in front of it said "Hug me, don't club me."

Seals are aggressive and would gnaw your face off if you tried to hug them. If it comes down to the seal, or me I'm siding with Mr. Bus Driver.

Drivers have to put up with insanity most of us could never dream of without hallucinogenics. Really, who are we to judge?

So let's cut this guy a little slack and stop calling for him to be fired. If nothing else, we should be thankful to him for pulling a stunt so hilarious it gave us all something to talk about this week other than the economy.

Paul McLeod is a staff reporter at Metro Halifax. He's currently in rehab for being a political junkie. It's going badly. Contact paul.mcleod@metronews.ca.

A COIN DEPICTING CANADA'S REGARD FOR POLAR BEAR CONSERVATION:



A COIN DEPICTING CANADA'S ACTION FOR POLAR BEAR CONSERVATION:



After metro

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Microsoft exec hopes for Yahoo talks


Microsoft Corp. chief executive Steve Ballmer said Thursday the only discussion he's had with Yahoo Inc.'s top executive was a single phone call, but is holding out hopes for further talks. Ballmer still covets a search partnership with Yahoo. **REUTERS**

13

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Neptune's future:

Neptune's Balance and its founder Barry (Junior) Munro need to decide whether to cement Neptune's Long Island roots or pull up stakes and move to Scotland. There is also a possibility of establishing facilities on both sides of the Atlantic.

Techlink honoured:

An international organization that sets standards for education and innovation in the gaming industry has awarded Techlink Entertainment platinum membership status for advances in responsible gaming.

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Gold, oil drive TSX

Stocks close higher for 8th straight gain

Toronto's main stock index closed higher for an eighth straight session Thursday as the U.S. Federal Reserve's plan to fight the recession boosted commodity prices and buoyed the resource-heavy index.

Energy and gold-mining companies headlined the rally, which was largely a continuation from Wednesday's surge after the Fed unexpectedly said it would buy long-term Treasury bonds in a bid to revive the recession-hit economy.

The S&P/TSX composite index rose 61.39 points, or 0.71 per cent, to hit 8,690.49.

The key Toronto index is now up 16 per cent from the five-year low hit two

Inflation

- Canada's annual inflation rate surged unexpectedly in February on higher food and shelter costs, but the Bank of Canada is expected to ignore the price pressures as it ponders whether to cut interest rates to historic lows.

weeks ago and finished the session at its highest closing level since Feb. 11. It was also the first time since December 2004 that the index has risen in eight straight sessions.

"What's been impressive is the way that this continued, and unlike in the States, where you have had a couple down days, we

haven't had that. We've seen the market keep going," said Gavin Graham, director of Investments at BMO Asset Management.

Shares of Suncor Energy, the key driver behind the rally, rose seven per cent to close at \$33.40, while EnCana Corp. closed up 4.8 per cent at \$53.02.

Shares of gold miners rallied as the price of gold shot to a three-week high as inflation concerns flared as the Fed said it planned to spend \$300 billion US on long-dated Treasuries.

"If they are printing lots of extra dollars to do all the buying of these Treasuries, it's probably a good idea to have something you can't print," Graham said.

REUTERS

Business in brief

RETAIL Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is awarding approximately \$2 billion US to its American hourly employees through financial incentives, including handing out \$933.6 million in bonuses Thursday, after it gained market share amid a recession.

TRAVEL Online travel agencies, eager to spur spring bookings in the recession, are locked in a price battle that has some of them cutting fees and reimbursing customers if the price of their trip falls after they book. **REUTERS**

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For Airport Parking details visit **www.halifaxairport.com**

The New England Patriots have signed 37-year-old wide-receiver Joey Galloway. Galloway joins Randy Moss in a prolific Patriot partnership as two of just nine active players with 10,000 or more receiving yards. **REUTERS**

Sports

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

As other sports falter, soccer keeps growing

Wednesday's press conference to announce Vancouver will join the MLS in 2011 came as no surprise to many. It's a club with a rich history of developing talent and producing winners, and one that had the financial backing, as well as the political support, to make it happen.

And despite the pleas of a few loudmouthed, protectionist soccer pundits who believe it should remain an American league, the MLS made the right decision by expanding to Canada again.

MLS will appease those short-sighted soccer patriarchs, as early as Friday, when it unveils a long-term vision for the Pacific Northwest and announces Portland as the 18th MLS franchise — which will join in 2011 as well.

Again, really no surprise.

But it was at that same Vancouver press conference that MLS commissioner **Don Garber**

Just**Soccer**

Ben Rycroft

metronews.ca/justsoccer

dropped a collective bomb on those watching when he announced the league has plans to expand to 20 teams by 2012.

So what? Well, to make that point clear — it's the beginning of what appears to be a severe recession in the U.S. And at a time when every other major sport in North America is either looking at contraction, job cuts or has no plans for expansion in the near future — soccer is continuing to expand.

The NHL has as many as 10 markets in serious financial trouble. We learned at this year's NBA All-Star break that 12 of its teams will accept a financial bailout from the league to the tune of \$200 million. And even the NFL,

Win for Portland

It appears Canada will not get a third Major League Soccer team.

At least not yet.

Just two days after the MLS announced Vancouver was getting a franchise beginning with the 2011 season, league officials have scheduled a news conference in Portland Friday where it's widely expected the city will be awarded a team.

Awarding the league's 18th franchise to Portland is a blow to Ottawa, which along with St. Louis, was one of four finalists for the two new MLS teams.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

with its rock-solid business model, appears to have backed off on its near-future expansion plans.

That's in contrast to the situation in soccer. Earlier this week, MLSE, which owns Toronto FC, revealed that it is looking to expand BMO stadium by as many as 20,000 seats — which would double the current capacity.

That's music to the ears of the MLS, which is going to anger those poor U.S. soccer patriarchs once again when two Canadian cities — Ottawa and Montreal — become the frontrunners for the 2012 expansion.

Sorenstam pregnant

Annika Sorenstam, left, who retired from golf in December and is widely regarded as the best female player of all time, is expecting her first child. The 38-year-old Swede, a 10-time major champion who won 90 titles worldwide, ended her playing career at the Dubai Ladies Masters three months ago.

REUTERS



NHL Sens get best of Price



Montreal Canadiens goaltender Carey Price looks back as he is scored on by Ottawa Senator Jarkko Ruutu in Ottawa Thursday night. Price was pulled from the Montreal net early in the second period after giving up four goals on 15 shots. The Senators won 5-4.

CHRIS WATTE/REUTERS

Halladay opens up about Burnett

BASEBALL Jays ace Roy Halladay remains intensely private, while at the same time exuding a quiet confidence. Nothing ever seems to bother him or seems able to penetrate his aura of certainty.

But, Thursday, when asked his feelings about his former locker buddy and teammate A.J. Burnett, Doc candidly admitted that it wasn't only Burnett who had trouble co-existing in the Jays clubhouse early in the relationship.

"It was definitely both ways," Halladay said of the

professional and mutual angst for both men. "They label you as the No. 1 guy and you have a guy here who has more talent than you that you know, as soon as he figures it out, you're not going to be there anymore. It's a different feeling than in the past where it's just kind of handed to you. You have to embrace that and work with it."

Burnett admitted earlier this spring that his relationship with Halladay inside the Jays' clubhouse improved in the last year-and-a-half once Burnett

stopped being a self-described idiot. The first-year-and-a-half Burnett's numbers and focus were not as good as they should have been and his relationship with Halladay was strained.

There is no fear or resentment left in Halladay. He is sincerely happy for Burnett, watching him receive a huge, five-year, \$83 million free-agent contract. The Jays were likely not as happy since that has to be where Halladay's negotiations for '11 begin.

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PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS
BAYERS ROAD / HIGHWAY 102 /
HIGHWAY 107 CORRIDOR STUDY



The Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) are exploring the future best use of the Bayers Road / Highway 102 Corridor from Windsor Street, Halifax to Fall River. The study includes traffic projections and functional designs that could be implemented in stages over a 30-year period. The location of the proposed Highway 107 from Akerley Blvd in Burnside to Highway 102 near Duke Street (Exit 4C) has also been updated and evaluated. The study was conducted by Stantec Consulting on behalf of NSTIR and HRM. Two public information sessions will be held to present the findings of the study and the functional design of the roadways and interchanges:

• **Wednesday, February 11, 2009**

at the St. Andrew's Centre, 6955 Bayer's Road, Halifax, from 6pm to 9pm with a presentation at 6:30pm.

• **Thursday, February 12, 2009**

at the LeBrun Community Centre, 36 Holland Avenue, Bedford from 6pm to 9pm with a presentation at 6:30pm.

NSTIR, HRM and Consultant staff will be in attendance at the public information sessions to discuss the study and answer questions. If you have questions regarding the upcoming sessions, please contact Bernadette Landry, P. Eng at 434-7331 or by e-mail at bernadette.landry@stantec.com.

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St. FX gets cash for track and field

The federal government is investing up to \$1 million in the outdoor track and field facilities at St. Francis Xavier University. **METRO HALIFAX**

sports **15**

Michael Kirkpatrick and his Saint John Sea Dogs teammates will be taking on the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles in the first round of the QMJHL playoffs starting Friday.

Looking for an upset

Sea Dogs face long odds against Screaming Eagles

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

This was supposed to be "our team, our time" for the Saint John Sea Dogs, at least according to their overly optimistic pre-season marketing campaign.

But the way things unfolded, Michael Kirkpatrick and his troops will settle for a first-round playoff upset over the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles and see where it takes them.

The Sea Dogs, who entered rebuild mode at mid-season after a sluggish start, open the QMJHL best-of-seven first round on Friday at Centre 200 in Sydney (EastLink, 7 p.m.).

"It'd be really nice, a perfect ending to the year, just to win at least this series and maybe win the second one, too," said

Kirkpatrick, a North Sydney native who moved to Hammonds Plains at age 15 to play for the Dartmouth Subways.

"We're going to keep our focus on this series and hopefully take them by just working hard and keeping it simple."

The Sea Dogs, who went to the semifinals last season and were expected to challenge for a championship this season, finished ninth overall with a 34-30-2-2 record.

Despite trading standouts Chris DiDomenico and Alex Grant in January, they did just as well in the new year (13 wins in 26 games) as they did before (21 wins in 42 games).

Kirkpatrick was their leader, firing home 34 goals and adding 30 assists for a team-best 64 points in 67 games. Halifax young gun Steven Antho-

ny was also a factor, finishing with 48 points, including 27 in the final 26 contests.

"It was hard for us — we pretty much changed the whole team and we didn't really know each other," the 18-year-old Kirkpatrick said. "We had to get our chemistry back, but since we did, we've been rollin'. We responded well."

The Sea Dogs are underdogs against the powerful Screaming Eagles, who finished fifth overall with 96 points. Kirkpatrick admits the Screaming Eagles have "a little bit more depth" than his Sea Dogs, but he's still optimistic.

"We work just as hard as them," he said. "We'll go in as underdogs but we just have to work hard and we'll be right there with them. It's going to be a good series."

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Plenty of local talent in QMJHL playoffs

MATTHEW WUEST

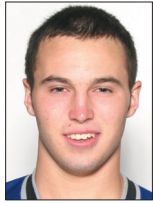
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Moose Country is no doubt a little lost these days, as this marks just the second time in franchise history the Halifax Mooseheads haven't been in the QMJHL playoffs.

But if Mooseheads fans

are still looking for some- point season to help the one to cheer for, Metro Halifax has taken a close look at the players with ties to the city that are still in a battle for the President's Cup.

ALEX BEATON, Lewiston (vs. Drummondville): The Lower Sackville native had a 47-



Alex Beaton

point season to help the Maineiacs squeak into a tough matchup with the Voltigeurs.

PETER DELMAS, Lewiston (vs. Drummondville): Delmas's 4.19 goals-against isn't pretty, and the Bedford native will likely be hard-pressed to better it against the vaunted Volts

offence.

BEN DUFFY, P.E.I. (vs. Moncton): Lower Sackville's Duffy is up for the Q's top rookie and top offensive rookie awards after a 41-point campaign at age 16. His teammates are Bedford's Brandon MacLean and Dartmouth's Stuart Lenehan.

STEPHEN MacAULAY, Saint John (vs. Cape Bre-

ton): He appeared in 47 games and should get playoff time. The Dartmouth native's teammates are Halifax's Steven Anthony and former Dartmouth Subway Michael Kirkpatrick.

BRADLEY MacDONALD, Victoriaville (vs. Shawinigan): The Halifax native joined the Tigres at the end of January and had

seven points in 11 games. He is teammates with Dartmouth's Tyler Noseworthy and former Moosehead Chad Earle.

LOGAN MacMILLAN, Rimouski (vs. Chicoutimi): The 19-year-old former Moosehead had 21 points in 28 games after joining the Memorial Cup host at mid-season.

GUILLAUME MONAST, Quebec (vs. Baie-Comeau): The former Mooseheads defenceman logs top-pairing minutes for the high-powered and favoured Remparts.

ANDREW ROSKI, Moncton (vs. P.E.I.): The Halifax native is used sparingly for the Wildcats but got into 52 games as a rookie on the third-best team in the league.

Rainmen face must-win game

BASKETBALL The Halifax Rainmen are facing what amounts to a must-win situation on Sunday at the Metro Centre.

The Rainmen, who host the Manchester Millrats at 2 p.m., could be officially eliminated from the race for a Premier Basketball League wildcard spot with a loss.

With three games remaining, the Rainmen have a 10-7 record and must catch either the Wilmington Sea Dawgs (12-6) or Rochester RazorSharks (12-3) to qualify.

Both the Sea Dawgs and RazorSharks hold tie-breakers over Halifax, meaning the Rainmen are done if they lose on Sunday and each of their rivals post victories.

The Millrats, 15-4, have already clinched a playoff spot.

METRO HALIFAX

Sports in brief

CURLING Mary Anne Arsenault is off to a 2-1 start at the Canada Cup of Curling in Yorkton, Sask. The Mayflower skip lost 7-4 to Michelle Englot yesterday afternoon. The round robin concludes Friday and the playoffs begin on Saturday. At stake for the competitors is \$25,000 and a berth at next year's Olympic trial.

SOCCER Bedford native Ante Jazic is scheduled to make his debut with Chivas USA on Friday as the Major League Soccer season hits full swing. Jazic, a 33-year-old defender who was traded from the Los Angeles Galaxy in the off-season, will face the Colorado Rapids at Home Depot Centre.

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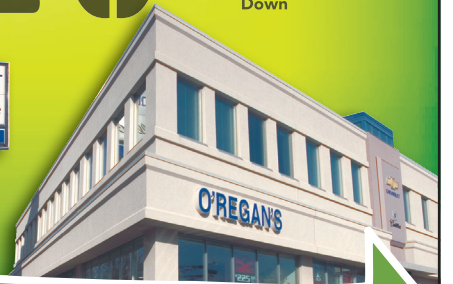


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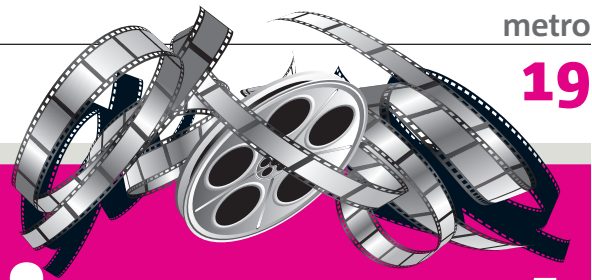
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Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.



19

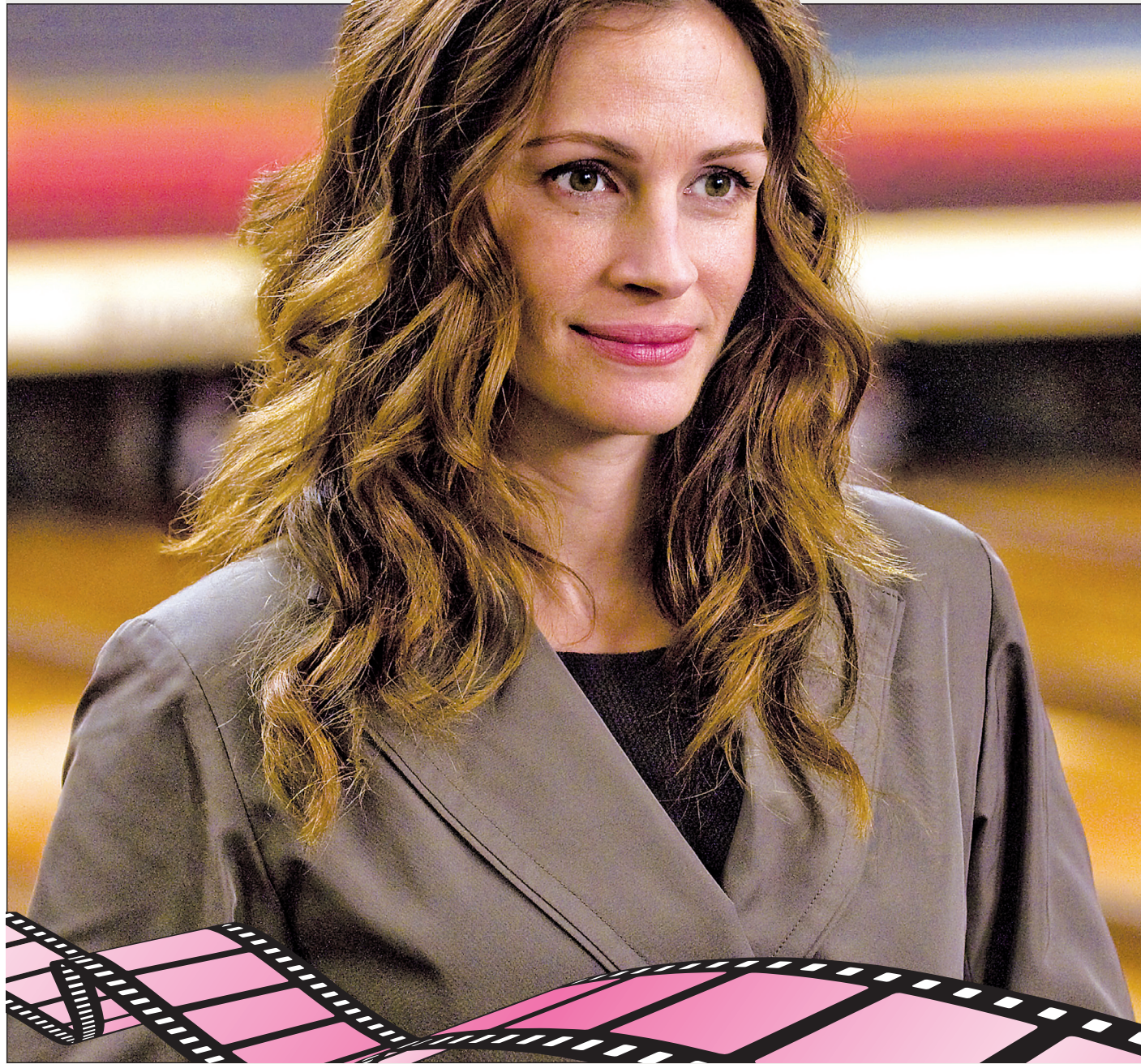
Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

She's back

Pg 20



A convoluted romantic-thriller set in the world of corporate espionage, Clive Owen and Julia Roberts are well cast as two global agents-turned corporate spies with a sketchy past in *Duplicity*. Their onscreen sparks are undeniable.

movies

Pg 21



I Love you, Man raunchy but still retains some romance.

music

Pg 24



How does the recession hit the average music fan?

entertainment

Pg 28



Kristen Stewart somewhat shy of her explosive fame.

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Confusion drags down Duplicity

Duplicity

Director: Tony Gilroy
Stars: Julia Roberts, Clive Owen
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



Some films are best tested with a clean slate — that is, if you have no preconceptions about them whatsoever. Duplicity is probably not one of those movies.

For instance, you should know that, contrary to the fact Duplicity was written and directed by Tony Gilroy, it's much less pen-sive than his directorial debut Michael Clayton. In fact, it plays more in tone like a cross between Ocean's Eleven and Mr. & Mrs. Smith.

Also, be warned — Duplicity has a convoluted plot that, in spite of its lightness, carries the heftiness of a giant.

A romantic-thriller set in



While the plot is convoluted, Julia Roberts and Clive Owen have undeniable chemistry in Duplicity.

the world of corporate espionage, Clive Owen and Julia Roberts are well-cast as two global agents turned corporate spies with a sketchy past.

See, before stumbling into each other in the private world, Roberts romanced Owen before drugging and commandeering Egyptian air defence codes in his possession. Now working on opposing sides of rival pharmaceutical giants, the pair are either rekindling their love or conspiring

for revenge against each other — we're never sure, and a constant flood of flashbacks only add to the confusion.

Now there's no denying the chemistry between Roberts and Owen (remember how good they were together in 2004's Closer?) and Gilroy's panache for style and dialogue certainly carries a lot of weight but as clever and adept as his script is at creating uncertainty in his characters' motives, it's also the film's

fatal deficiency.

Sure, there is some fun play, but after a while all that (ah-hem) duplicity between Owen and Roberts feels pretty cumbersome to a simple moviegoer looking for escape on a Friday night.

On the web



Visit:

• metronews.ca/movies for a Duplicity trailer and local screen times

Knowing too much, too little

Knowing

Director: Alex Proyas
Stars: Nicolas Cage, Rose Byrne
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



Combining elements of numerology, theology, fatalism and the notion of alien life in what is basically a glorified disaster movie, Knowing accomplishes the improbable combination of giving us way too much and yet not enough.

When his son's school unearths a 50-year-old time capsule, troubled professor John Koestler (Nicolas Cage) comes across an odd document scribbled with seemingly random numbers.

During a bout of whiskey-soaked inspiration, however, Koestler discovers that each set of digits provides the dates and locations of every major disaster that's occurred

since the capsule's burial. Impossible, right?

Wrong. And worse, he determines that a few of the dates are about to arrive sending Koestler forth on a race to prevent devastation.

Of course there's more to it than that — like creepy albino humanoids that inexplicably appear in the distance for no apparent reason or the mysteriously-placed black stones that seem harder to clean up than sand in shag carpeting. But many of these strange occurrences, although nifty enough, just seem unnecessarily inconsequential.

No stranger to science fiction, director Alex Proyas (I, Robot) may have been too wrapped up in the mystery of it all to just focus in the area where he truly succeeds: The action.

Whether it's the film's remarkable subway wreck or a mesmerizing plane crash, Proyas captures a sense of great intensity in these epic sequences that's sorely lacking in the rest of the movie.

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Pitt, Portman to star in new flick

Brad Pitt and Natalie Portman have signed on for a romantic comedy based on a book by Leanne Shapton. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Movies

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Animated film to open 'Up' Cannes

FILM FEST An animated 3-D comedy directed by the one of the creators of Toy Story will raise the curtain on the Cannes Film Festival, the first time an animated film has opened the world's biggest cinema competition, organizers said on Thursday.

Up, directed by Pete Docter, who also directed animated hit Monsters, Inc. and developed the story and characters for Toy Story, will be shown at the opening ceremony on May 13. The festival runs from May 13-24.

The film, from the Disney Pixar studios, part of Walt Disney Co., tells the story of 78 year-old Carl Fredricksen who ties thousands of balloons to his house and floats away to the South American wilderness, only to discover he has taken a nine-year-old stowaway with him.

It will be released in U.S. cinemas on May 29. **REUTERS**

I Love You, Man raunchy but romantic

I Love You, Man

Director: John Hamburg
Stars: Paul Rudd, Jason Segal, Jon Favreau
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●●●½

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

I Love You, Man is a star-filled and unabashed comedy that leaves the audience feeling pleasant whether they like it or not.

Normally this type of filmmaking can be irritatingly predictable, but writer/director John Hamburg packed his cast with the right talent and toys with conventions just enough to make audiences remember why the well-worn formulas worked so well in the first place.

In keeping with the output of club Apatow, this movie is both realistically raunchy and surprisingly sweet, and features an unironic romantic.

Paul Rudd stars as a re-



Paul Rudd and Jason Segal make for an absurdly funny duo in John Hamburg's I Love You, Man.

cently engaged guy with no candidates for his best man. At the encouragement of his fiancée, Rudd embarks on a series of awkward man dates to find a new best friend. What follows is a hilarious and surprisingly insightful portrait of male friendship as well as a gentle parody of romantic comedy conventions with two dudes as the onscreen couple.

It's an uncharacteristically smart variation on the most popular contemporary comedy form, aided by an absurdly funny cast.

Rudd and Segal's small guy/gangly guy duo look like a classic comedy team and their offscreen friendship gives them natural comedic chemistry.

If they were the only funny characters in the movie, it would score con-

sistent laughs, but a vast supporting cast of comedians that includes Jon

Favreau, Andy Samberg, JK Simmons, Aziz Ansari and others takes the movie to another level.

Almost every scene contains a moment of hysterical improvisation from the stacked cast, while still retaining a strong structure from Hamburg's clever script.

This may not be a movie with ambitions of greatness and it does have one unfortunately boring straight girl role for Rudd's fiancée, but I Love You, Man still generates enough laughs to be easy crowd pleaser. Plus, it does it all without insulting your intelligence.

This is about as good as mainstream comedy gets.

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Buddy movies a favourite

InFocus



Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

The new issue of Vanity Fair says Paul Rudd may become “this generation’s Jack Lemmon.” It’s a particularly astute observation given the release of this weekend’s I Love You, Man, a buddy comedy co-starring Rudd and Jason Segel. They play an odd couple; BFFs with nothing in common except friendship.

If that set-up sounds familiar, it should. Lemmon was a buddy film pioneer and his popularity helped establish the genre as a top Hollywood moneymaker. As The Odd Couple’s Felix Unger he had the classic buddy picture one-liner, “I’m a neurotic nut, but you’re crazy,” a joke that

wouldn’t be out-of-place in the third act of I Love You, Man.

Without Lemmon bouncing wisecracks off a mismatched on-screen pal in The Odd Couple, Buddy Buddy and even Grumpy Old Men, there may never have been a Planes, Trains and Automobiles, Pineapple Express or Swingers.

There is an argument to be made that buddy comedies have always been a Hollywood staple. It could be said that Abbott and Costello or Laurel and Hardy were making buddy comedies long before Lemmon and Tony Curtis donned dresses and camped it up in Some Like It Hot, but for my money the Billy Wilder film about two musicians who witness the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre and flee the state disguised as women sets the template for the modern buddy movie.

The basic formula is there — colliding personalities, wisecracks and comic conflict between the two actors — but more important than

any of that is the chemistry between Lemmon and Curtis. Even though every buddy picture relies on tension between the leads, sparks have to fly between them or the whole thing will fall flat. Brett Ratner, director of Rush Hour, calls great chemistry between actors “an explosion in a bottle” and says it’s crucial to the success of any buddy pic.

Since Some Like It Hot, producers have paired up a laundry list of actors searching for the perfect mix. Lemmon and Walter Matthau were journeymen of the genre, co-starring in six buddy pictures ranging from the sublime — The Odd Couple — to the ridicu-

lous — Grumpier Old Men. Other less iconic one-off on-screen pals include Danny DeVito and Arnold Schwarzenegger as fraternal twins separated at birth in Twins, Blazing Saddles’ Gene Wilder and Cleavon Little, and Greg Kinnear and Pierce Brosnan as a down-on-his-luck businessman and a has-been assassin in The Matador.

There are as many kinds of buddy movies as there are kinds of buddies, so why have the movies endured and prospered over the years? Maybe it’s because they make good date movies. Perhaps men like them because they’re about male bonding and women like to see how men behave when they’re not around. “It’s amazing how different things are when guys are with guys and guys are with women,” says Barry Levinson, director of the classic male bonding film Diner.

Richard Crouse’s Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

Pinocchio tops U.S. DVD, Blu-ray sales

VIDEO A special 70th-anniversary edition of animated classic Pinocchio topped the national home video sales charts during the week ending March 15, buoyed in part by surprisingly strong Blu-ray Disc sales.

Of the Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment release’s total sales, 15 per cent were in the high-definition format, a high number for a family title — and an indication that Blu-ray Disc may be moving beyond the early-adopter stage, which is dominated by young adult males.

Pinocchio debuted at No. 1 on both the Nielsen VideoScan First Alert sales chart, which tracks DVD and Blu-ray Disc sales combined, and Nielsen’s Blu-ray Disc chart.

Debuting at No. 2 on both charts was the comedy Role Models, which earned \$67.3 million in theaters. Role Models turned in a surprisingly

strong sales debut, with studio sources reporting that 25 per cent of the initial shipment was snatched up by consumers in the first day. After six days, a whopping 70 per cent of inventory was gone, translating into first-week sales of more than 2 million units.

The third spot on both sales charts went to Transporter 3, which earned \$31.7 million at the box office. Role Models and Transporter 3 also debuted at No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, on Home Media Magazine’s rental chart for the week, bumping the previous week’s top renter, Australia, to No. 3.

Beverly Hills Chihuahua, the top-selling home video release the previous week, slipped to No. 4 on the First Alert sales chart, just ahead of Milk, which debuted at No. 5. Milk was also the week’s No. 4 renter its first week in stores.

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This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THIS PAGE COVERS MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MARCH 20 TO THURS., MARCH 26. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

HALIFAX

BAYERS LAKE

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:55-3:35-7:05-9:30

Coraline 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2:20-4:45-7:10-9:40

Duplicity (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-7:45

Fired Up (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 3:15-6:35-9:20 Dolby Stereo Sat 6:35-9:20 Dolby Stereo Sun-Thu 3:15-6:35-9:20

He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 6:40-9:25

Hotel for Dogs (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-3:35-6:30

I Love You, Man (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 1:10-4:10-7:15-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat 1:10-3:30-6:50-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:15-9:35

Inkheart (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15

The International (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:10

Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience in Disney Digital 3D (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30

Knowing (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 12:20-3:15-6:45-9:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat 1:50-4:40-7:20-10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun-Tue 12:20-3:15-6:45-9:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 1:45-4:20-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:20-3:15-6:45-9:25

The Last House on the Left (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-7:30-10

Miss March (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-3:45-7:30-9:55

One Week (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 6:40-9:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:30

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30

The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:30

Push (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 7:20-9:50 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:15-4-7:20-9:50

Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-1-3:30-4-7-7-20-9:25-9:50 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:30-1-3:30-4-7-7:20-9:25-9:50

Slumdog Millionaire (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:25-3:20-6:35-9:20

Taken (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu



From left, Matthew Goode as Ozymandias and Jeffrey Dean Morgan as The Comedian in a scene from Watchmen, which is currently in theatres.

1:20-4-7:10-9:50

The Tale of Despereaux (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:55-3:35

Twilight (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 11:59 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat 11:30

Watchmen (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 12:45-4:30-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:45-4:20-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:45-4:30-9

IMAX

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

Under the Sea 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-2-30-4

Watchmen: The IMAX Experience (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 6:15-9:40

OXFORD THEATRE

6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488

Pontypool (14) Fri 7-9:30-11:59 Sat 4:30-7-9:30 Sun 2-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

PARK LANE

5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860

Duplicity (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 3:30-6:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Thu 3-7-30-10

I Love You, Man (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-3:50-7-9:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-7-9:40

Knowing (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:30

The Last House on the Left (18) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:20-3:45-7:20-9:45 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:45-7:20-9:45

Marley & Me (PG) Dolby Stereo,

Stadium Seating Fri 12:10-2:50

Metropolitan Opera: La Sonnambula (STC) Stadium Seating Sat 2

Miss March (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 6:50-9:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun 1:15-3:35-6:50-9:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:35-6:50-9:10

One Week (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:45-3:10-6:45-9 Stadium Seating Mon 3:10-9 Stadium Seating Tue-Wed 3:10-6:45-9 Stadium Seating Thu 3:10-9

Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-3:20-7:10-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-7:10-9:35

The Tale of Despereaux (G) Stadium Seating Fri 12:20-3

Watchmen (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 12:30-4-7:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat 7:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun 12:30-4-7:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-7:30

LOWER SACKVILLE

LOWER SACKVILLE

760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza
902-869-2022

Duplicity (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-3:15-6:30-9:15 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-9:15

I Love You, Man (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:30-7-9:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7-9:40

Knowing (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-3:45-6:45-9:25 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45-9:25

The Last House on the Left (18) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:15-4-6:50-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30

Miss March (18) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-7:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:10

Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-3:30-7-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7-9:20

Taken (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:10

The Tale of Despereaux (G) Stadium Seating Fri 12:30-2:40-4:45

Watchmen (18) Stadium Seating Fri 7:30 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-4:10-7:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:30

DARTMOUTH

DARTMOUTH

650 Portland St., 902-434-4200

Aliens (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital Thu 9

Fired Up (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 6:50-9

Gran Torino (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Wed 8:50

He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 6:30-9:05

Hotel for Dogs (G) Dolby Stereo Fri 1:20-3:50-6:35 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 2:30-6:35 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 6:35

Inkheart (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1-3:30 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 2:10

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 1:40-4:10-6:45-9:10 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 2:40-6:45-9:10 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 6:45-9:10

The Tale of Despereaux (G) Dolby Stereo Fri 1:30-4 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 2:50

Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri 1:10-3:40-6:40-8:55 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 2:20-6:40-8:55 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu

6:40-8:55

Watchmen (18) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 2:15-7:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 2-7:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 7:30

DARTMOUTH CROSSING

145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing
902-481-3251

Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:10-9:45

Coraline 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Wed 1:25-4:05-6:40-9:10 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Thu 1:25-4:05-9:10

Duplicity (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-6:15-9:05

I Love You, Man (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1-3:55-6:40-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:05-9:40

Knowing (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-3:30-6:30-9:25

The Last House on the Left (18) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 7:15-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Tue 1:30-4:25-7:15-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:30-4:25-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:30-4:25-7:15-9:50

Metropolitan Opera: La Sonnambula (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat 2 **Miss March** (18) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:20-2:35-4:45-6:55-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:20-2:35-9:15

Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12-12:30-3:45-5-7-7:30-9:30-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12-12:30-3:45-5-7-7:30-9:30-10

Slumdog Millionaire (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 6:50-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Tue 12:50-4-6:50-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:50-4-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:50-4-6:50-9:35

Taken (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:40-2:55-5:10-7:20-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 5:10-7:20-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 12:40-2:55-5:10-7:20-9:45

Twilight (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 11:59 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 11:30

Watchmen (18) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-4:30-8

TRURO

TRURO

20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook
902-895-8020

Duplicity (PG) Stadium Seating Fri

12-2:40-6:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat 2:40-6:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Sun 2:40-6:8:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6-8:30

Hotel for Dogs (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:30-2:30

Inkheart (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12-2:15

Knowing (14) Stadium Seating Fri 12-2:40-6:40-9:15 Stadium Seating Sat 2:40-6:40-9:15 Stadium Seating Sun 2:40-6:05-8:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:05-8:30

The Last House on the Left (18) Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-9 Stadium Seating Sat 2:15-6:50-9 Stadium Seating Sun 2:15-6:15-8:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:15-8:40

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:30-2:30-7:10-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:30-7:10-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:30-6:25-8:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:25-8:20

Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 12:40-2:20-7-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat 2:20-7-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 2:20-6:20-8:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:20-8:40

Taken (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:30-2:35-7:20-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:35-7:20-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:35-6:30-8:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-8:20

Watchmen (18) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:55-7:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:30

BRIDGEWATER

BRIDGEWATER

349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

Duplicity (PG) Fri 1:15-3:55-6:35-9:25 Sat 1:15-6:35-9:25 Sun 1:15-6:05-8:55 Mon-Thu 6:05-8:55

Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri 1:30-3:55

I Love You, Man (14) Fri 2:15-4:40-7:10-9:40 Sat 2:15-7:10-9:40 Sun 2:15-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:10

Knowing (14) Fri 1:40-4:15-6:50-9:35 Sat 1:40-6:50-9:35 Sun 1:40-6:20-9:05 Mon-Thu 6:20-9:05

Race to Witch Mountain (PG) No Passes Fri 2-4:20-7:05-9:25 No Passes Sat 2-7:05-9:25 No Passes Sun 2-6:35-8:55 Mon-Thu 6:35-8:55

The Reader (14) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat 1:50-6:40-9:20 Sun 1:50-6:10-8:50 Mon-Thu 6:10-8:50

Slumdog Millionaire (14) Fri 1:35-4:15-6:45-9:30 Sat 1:35-6:45-9:30 Sun 1:35-6:15-9 Mon-Thu 6:15-9

The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri 1:50-4:10

Watchmen (18) Fri 7:30 Sat 2:30-7:30 Sun 2:30-7 Mon-Thu 7





Music

Metro recommends

• **HANDSOME FURS, FACE CONTROL:** Montreal duo deliver charged up indie pop with slick electro-beats and hard rock riffs.



• **...AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD, THE CENTURY OF SELF:** Texans skillfully lay noisy, fierce alt-rock guitars over a prog-rock foundation.



• **SHOUT OUT OUT OUT OUT, REINTEGRATION TIME:** Waves of synthesizers and deep bass beats meld with robot-like vocals for a futuristic dance-rock sound.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music fans watching wallets

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

David Silverberg is your typical music fan. The Toronto-based writer buys about seven albums a year and goes to shows every six weeks. Or at least that's what he did until the recession forced him to take a hard look at how he spends his cash.

"I'm definitely buying less music and going to less concerts," he says. "I can put my money towards more applicable things. Concerts are nice an enjoyable, but not necessary."

Thousands of music lovers across Canada are dealing with the same financial dilemmas as Silverberg right now, and many are choosing to cut back on their music consumption.

Aaron Brophy, Chartattack.com's managing editor, says the fans who will abandon their regular concert-going routine first will be people who have lost



Music lovers across Canada are dealing with financial dilemmas associated with the recession.

their jobs. "They won't be purchasing tickets or albums or band t-shirts anymore," he says.

Luckily, in the Internet era, cash strapped fans can connect to artists in ways other than buying albums. Silverberg has turned to MySpace, where many acts stream full albums, and he frequents a Toronto Blues bar Tuesday nights because

the music is good and, more importantly, free.

Legal downloading is another way to listen to music relatively cheaply. Digital albums often cost less and buying a few 99 cent tracks won't hurt the pocket book as much.

"Pursuing legal downloads is the way things are going, and you would think that might speed up," says Paul Gagnon, who teaches financial strategies at Toronto's Harris Institute, a music management school. "Hopefully people do capitalize on that idea. It only makes more sense now to focus on digital delivery for content."

Clearly, people's music

buying habits will shift if the recession continues, but so will the way they find out about upcoming bands. At the beginning of the year Chart Magazine abandoned its print product to go exclusively online, MuchMusic cancelled The New Music in December, and now a funding shortfall at Canada's public broadcaster could put indie music station CBC Radio 3 in jeopardy.

"Cancelling these programs affects the artists and the potential fan base for those artists," says Gagnon. "Will they still get exposure elsewhere off of TV?"

The answer to that is

Riding the Recession

yes, though it might become harder to reach that critical mass if music news is found on disparate blogs. However, while there are more music blogs than ever for fans to peruse, Brophy thinks people will continue to turn to brand name publications to get their music fix.

"(Blogs are) fun, but in the long run, actual reporting with depth and diverse content will win out," he says.

Gagnon agrees. "It's not too late for music magazine's to build their brand online," he explains. "They still have the best access to artists and have talented writers. They can capitalize on that."

Silverberg was never an avid music mag reader, so the decline of Chart, Harp and others, hasn't affected him too much. His method of staying in the know is not only cheap, it's the main way music fans have been connecting to artists for decades.

"It's about word of mouth," he says. "I have friends that are inside the music scene, so I just listen to them."

New York Dolls reunite with Rundgren

RELEASES Veteran rock act the New York Dolls will issue its fourth album, Cause I Sez So, on May 5 in the U.S and a day earlier in the U.K.

The band, which was revived in 2004 at the instigation of singer-songwriter

Morrissey, who was curating the Meltdown festival in London, has reunited with Todd Rundgren, producer of its self-titled 1973 debut. A re-recorded version of Trash from that album features on the new set.

Cause I Sez So (Atco) was

recorded at Utopia Sound Studio in Kauai, Hawaii, and features original members David Johansen on vocals and Sylvain Sylvain on guitar, alongside Steve Conte (guitar), Brian Delaney (drums), and Sami Yaffa (bass).

REUTERS

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Music

Pearl Jam revisits Ten

SoundCheck

Alan
Cross

alan@ongoinghistory.com

Imagine this: After years of false starts and disappointments, things finally click for your new band. Not only does your debut record sell more than 15 million copies, but also becomes one of the cornerstones of the grunge revolution and a staple of Gen X's musical diet forevermore.

Now imagine this: No matter how many people tell you that your record is great, you still hate how it sounds. Welcome to the world of Pearl Jam and their Ten album.

But come Tuesday, the band will finally get what they've always wanted: A version of Ten that meets with their approval. They tapped their favourite producer, Brendan O'Brien, to remix it using its original parts. Think "refurbishment" instead of "renovation."



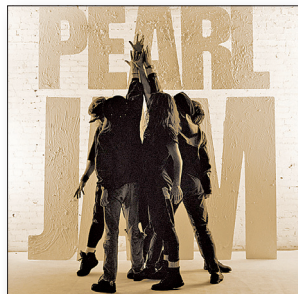
"We put a lot of work into that record," guitarist Stone Gossard told me, "and I think in the end, we were happy with it. But as much as we love (Ten producer Tim Palmer), it's really exciting to go back and revisit it."

Few bands ever get this kind of musical mulligan. "(Brendan) tweaked the colour and the sound," says Stone, "You can hear a lot more energy coming out of it."

"I think it was more about production values," Eddie Vedder confided to me, "It wasn't how it was

played. There were certain things done in the studio to accentuate this part or that part — an effect or an echo. Looking back, it feels like artificial atmosphere. On the remixed version, it gets stripped down a bit and becomes closer to what the initial core of what that music was at the time."

I must confess that even after talking to Pearl Jam, I wasn't convinced — until I heard the new version. The guitars are ... bigger, fatter, better. The mix seems cleaner and the music has extra clarity. Even though I've heard songs from Ten



Pearl Jam, left, playing live after the original release of Ten. Above, artwork for the reissue.

countless times since it was released on Aug. 27, 1991, I heard bits in the new mix that I had never heard before.

Put aside your scepticism. This version of Ten is better than the original in every way. And if you get the chance, listen to the new vinyl edition.

"That's the thing you get to do if you stick around long enough," adds Stone. Guitarist Mike McCready jumps in. "It only takes 20 years."

Well, 17 years, 6 months and 26 days. But who's counting?

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

Doiron chronicles emotional rebirth

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

If there's any indie rocker that you'd want as your mom, it's got to be Julie Doiron. The New Brunswick-based singer-songwriter's three kids are just learning about music and what better teacher to have than this former Eric's Trip darling.

"My 14-year-old son has been playing guitar for a year," she says. "But he plays more when I sit down with him and teach him."

A few more lessons and, who knows, he might lead another East Coast rock revolution like Eric's Trip did in the early '90s. And, if he, or Doiron's two girls, decides to make a serious go at a music career, she obviously can't stop them.

"I would have to support them," she says. "But it's up to them. I'm not going to push them to do anything."

If they do get serious about a music career, at least they have a good musical role model to look up to. Doiron has one of the more eclectic Canadian careers, signing to Sub Pop



I Can Wonder What You Did with Your Day is the ninth solo album from New Brunswick-based singer-songwriter Julie Doiron.

with Eric's Trip in 1993, winning a Juno seven years later, and she's just released I Can Wonder What You Did with Your Day, her ninth solo album.

Unlike her previous disc, the Polaris Prize nominated Woke Myself Up, Doiron's latest is a rockier, lo-fi affair reminiscent of her Eric's Trip past. It's also much more upbeat than a lot of her previous albums.

"Right now I'm a pretty happy person," she says. "It took a long time to un-

derstand how to find that. I had a good marriage, the most amazing kids, but I was having a hard time finding a balance."

In order to get to a more positive place, she had to separate from her husband and learn how to love again.

You'd think after an ordeal like that she'd be full of somber, introspective songs, but she reveals that she had trouble writing while her marriage was breaking up.

"I didn't write any songs

"I didn't write any songs for the first year of having separated ... But then I started to fall in love again." Julie Doiron

for the first year of having separated," she explains. "I didn't want to write about that. I actually didn't want to write about anything. But then I started to fall in love again."

The result is an album about discovery and emotional rebirth. "It's about discovering someone new, being happy to be alive, surviving a breakup and realizing there is going to be more after that," she says. "That's not it until you die."

While the happier lyrics are refreshing, Doiron hasn't turned into a twee pop act. There's still moments of longing, confusion and doubt that puts a precarious spin on her newfound feelings.

"I'm never full on jolly," she makes sure to point out. "I definitely feel better, but the record feels pretty human to me."

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"It's just been so shocking, really shocking and I hope that everybody in the family, quietly, can somehow pick up the pieces," Judi Dench told BBC television. **REUTERS**

Entertainment

Tributes roll in for 'golden' Richardson

Directors, actors and critics paid tribute to Natasha Richardson yesterday after her death the day prior, which was caused by an epidural hematoma caused by a blunt impact, meaning a bruise to the head that caused bleeding in the brain, New York's medical examiner says.

The 45-year-old, a mem-

ber of Britain's Redgrave acting dynasty and an accomplished stage and screen performer, passed away in a New York hospital Wednesday.

Britain's bestselling daily tabloids the Daily Mirror and The Sun dedicated their front pages to the news, expressing shock felt by the family and wider public

that what had seemed a relatively minor fall on the slopes ended tragically.

In a statement released just before midnight London time, family spokesman Alan Nierob said: "Liam Neeson, his sons, and the entire family are shocked and devastated by the tragic death of their beloved Natasha. They are

profoundly grateful for the support, love and prayers of everyone, and ask for privacy during this very difficult time."

Richardson had been hospitalized in New York since Tuesday, surrounded by her husband, actor Liam Neeson, her two sons Michael, 13, and Daniel Jack, 12, and members of her immediate

family including her mother, actress Vanessa Redgrave.

Film maker Ken Russell, who directed Richardson in the 1986 film Gothic, said the actress was "always poised, prepared, focused and very, very bright."

"Her beauty was golden," he wrote in The Times of London. "That's the word

that keeps coming to mind ... She was one of the few actresses who was as smart as she was pretty, and as gentle as she was fierce."

Lindsay Lohan, who starred with Richardson in the 1998 comedy The Parent Trap, called her "a wonderful woman and actress (who) treated me like I was her own." **REUTERS**

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Television

Global sense of style

Iman visits Toronto to support Canadian fashion talent

RAFAEL BRUSILOV
for Metro Canada

Iman believes Canadians have just as much fashion sense — and talent — as anyone around the world.

The ever-alluring supermodel and host of Project Runway Canada is in Toronto for LG Fashion Week to support Canadian alumni from last season's cycle of the show and kick off a showing of full collections by this season's final three designers.

With modern fashion melding influences from across the world, Iman sees Canadian talent as being no less potent than those around the world.

"I don't really see anything territorial about fashion because fashion is truly global"

Supermodel Iman

the world.

"Coco is amazing. Canadians should be very proud that she's Canadian but the whole world is claiming her because she's that good. She has a beauty that is very classical but could also look edgy. Her pictures come alive," Iman said.

Along with hosting Project Runway, Iman is CEO of her own cosmetics brand and spokesperson for the Keep a Child Alive charity. Despite being busier now than she even was as a model, Iman still finds time to spend with her husband, famed musician David Bowie, and be a mom.

"I have an eight-year-old, so my life is aligned to that first. I still cook at home, I

still take my kid to school, I still have to go to PTA meetings. I always tell people, 'If you only knew how normal (my life) is,'" Iman said.

Though the tough economy has forced many fashion labels to shift focus away from high-end offerings, Iman doesn't necessarily see that as a bad thing.

"Fashion is all about change — if it doesn't change, it doesn't move forward. It has gone from one extreme to the other. Now the consumer is dictating where fashion is going to go. In the meantime I'm hoping that there will still be clothes that will uplift us," Iman said.



Project Runway Canada host Iman is in Toronto this week to support Canadian alumni from last season's show.

FRIDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
sports	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Wife Swap (N)	Supernanny (N)		20/20
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Instant Star	TMZ (N)		Sarah Connor Chronicles	Supernanny (N)		Whistler
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	Easton Meets West (N)	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	College Basketball	NCAA Tournament First Round -- USC vs. Boston College.		College Basketball		
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	NUMB3RS "Harvest"		Howie Do It (N)	Howie Do It	(10:01) Dollhouse (N)	News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	News (N)
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles	(10:01) Dollhouse (N)		Fox First
	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Howie Do It (N)	Howie Do It	Friday Night Lights (N)	Dateline NBC
	55	55	55	SCOR	March Madness Wrap		College Basketball: NCAA Tourn. 1st Rd.				College Basketball	
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	NBA Basketball	Charlotte Bobcats at Toronto Raptors. (HDTV) (Live)			SportsCentre	
cable variety	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Pirated"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami
	70	70	70	APTN	News (N)		Mixed Blessing	Fish Out	Rabbit Fall	Cashin' In	Suspect ** (1987, Suspense) Cher.	
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		Kyle Riabko: The Lead		Bravo! Fact	Books-Film	Deconstructing Harry *** (1997)	
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Good Morning	Corner Gas	22 Minutes	The Simpsons	South Park
	18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitz		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)	Cooper 360
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Heli-Loggers (N)		Man vs. Wild "Oregon"	Deranged (N)
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Extreme Home	Extreme Living	Location, Loc.
	46	46	46	HIST	Urban Legends	Urban Legends	NCIS "Lt. Jane Doe"		Jurassic Fight Club		Urban Legends	Urban Legends
	17	17	17	MM	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	Redemption	Redemption	Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		The School of Rock (2003, Comedy)	
	206	206	206	PIX	(5:45) Unforgiven		The Dark ** (1994, Horror)			H'wd Spight	Dragonheart ** (1996, Fantasy)	

SATURDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
sports	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	Wrld News Sat	Legend of the Seeker		Flightplan ** (2005, Suspense) Jodie Foster.			Castle
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Air Bud ** (1997, Comedy-Drama) Michael Jeter.			Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Tough Guys
	11	11	11	CBC	Sat. Report	Hockey Night	NHL Hockey	Toronto Maple Leafs at Montreal Canadiens. (HDTV) (Live)				NHL Hockey
	32	32	32	CBS	College Basketball: NCAA Tourn. 2nd Rd. -- Teams TBA		College Basketball: NCAA Tourn. 2nd Rd. -- Teams TBA					48 Hr. Mystery
	6	6	6	CHIF	Global Currents: Rich Nation		National Aboriginal Achievement Awards		Masterminds	Doc "Swing Shift"		News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	W-FIVE Cancer: bars. (N)		Law & Order "Pledge"		Flightplan ** (2005, Suspense) Jodie Foster.			News (N)
	36	36	36	FOX	Friends	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cops (N)	Cops (N)	America's Most Wanted	Fox First
	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Access Hollywood (N)		The Celebrity Apprentice (N)			Law & Order
	55	55	55	SCOR	College Basketball: NCAA Tourn. 2nd Rd. -- Teams TBA		College Basketball: NCAA Tourn. 2nd Rd. -- Teams TBA					
	53	53	53	TSN	(6) Curling Canada Cup -- Women's Semifinal. From Yorkton, Sask.				SportsCentre		Curling: Canada Cup	
cable variety	16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami "Camp Fear"		CSI: Miami "Man Down"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami
	70	70	70	APTN	(6) Trudell	HalfAnything	Arbor Live		National Aboriginal Achievement Awards		Living, Dream	Dead Indian
	37	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravo/Videos	Live at the Rehearsal Hall		Death at Opera	Broadway	Fast Times at Ridgemont High (1982)	
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	22 Minutes	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	Blue Collar TV	The Simpsons	South Park
	18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitz		Newsroom		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live	D.L. Hughley
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Cash Cab (N)	Out in the Cold	Explosions Gone Wrong		Destroyed	Time Warp
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Top Design		Million Dollar Listing	Extreme-Home
	46	46	46	HIST	A Treasure Ship's Tragedy		NCIS		Mob Stories		Braveheart (1995, Historical Drama)	
	17	17	17	MM	Springbreak.09		The School of Rock *** (2003, Comedy) Jack Black.				Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)	Paris Hilton
	206	206	206	PIX	(5:50) The Ugly American		Bad Boys *** (1995, Action) Martin Lawrence.				Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989)	

SUNDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
sports	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC News	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives	Brothers
	7	7	7	ASN	Greek "Liquid Courage"		Funniest Home Videos		Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		Cold Case (HDTV) (N)	Medium
	11	11	11	CBC	Heartland (N) (DVS)		India Reborn (HDTV Part 2 of 2) (N)				CBC News: Sunday Night (N)	Who Do-Think
	32	32	32	CBS	College Basketball		60 Minutes		The Amazing Race 14		Cold Case (HDTV) (N)	The Unit
	6	6	6	CHIF	16:9 Picture	King of the Hill	(8:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Family Guy (N)	American Dad
	9	9	9	CJCH	Star Wars Clo.	Degrassi: TNG	The Mentalist		The Amazing Race 14		Desperate Housewives	News (N)
	36	36	36	FOX	Cold Case "Red Glare"		American Dad	King of the Hill	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Family Guy (N)	American Dad
	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Dateline NBC (N)		Kings "Prosperity" (N)		The Celebrity Apprentice (N)	
	55	55	55	SCOR	College Basketball: NCAA Tourn. 2nd Rd. -- Teams TBA		The WWE Experience				Women's University Hockey: CIS Final	
	53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre		NHL Hockey	Ottawa Senators at New York Rangers. (HDTV) (Live)			Curling: Canada Cup	
cable variety	16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami "Man Down"		CSI: Miami "Big Brother"		CSI: Miami "Inside Out"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami
	70	70	70	APTN	Great Towns	MYTV	The Mix (N)	Living, Dream	Arbor Live		Renegades ** (1989, Crime Drama)	
	37	37	37	BRVO	Mad Men		Arts & Minds	Bravo! Fact	Walk With Us		Meet the Parents *** (2000, Comedy)	
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	22 Minutes	Winnipeg Comedy Festival		Laughs	Rick Mercer	The Simpsons	South Park
	18	18	18	CNN	Newsroom		Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live	Newsroom
	38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	MythBusters		Lion Feeding Frenzy (N)		Bear Feeding Frenzy (N)	MythBusters
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Buy Me	Extreme Makeover: Home	Real Renos
	46	46	46	HIST	Great Escape-Canadian Story		NCIS "Witch Hunt"		Stalingrad		Enemy at the Gates ** (2001, War)	
	17	17	17	MM	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		Paris Hilton's British Friend		Redemption	Meet Barkers
	206	206	206	PIX	The Replacement Killers		Night Falls on Manhattan *** (1997, Crime Drama)				To Live and Die in L.A. ** (1985)	

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National Geographic Channel's popular Dog Whisperer has been renewed for a sixth season. The Friday night staple starring dog guru Cesar Millan has been granted 30 more episodes, which will roll out sometime later this year. **REUTERS**

Entertainment

Kristen Stewart a reluctant star

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



Kristen Stewart may be the hottest rising star in movies, but she may also be its most reluctant.

"It feels so good to have something that you love

received so hotly," said the 18-year old actress during a recent interview in Los Angeles.

"(But) something that you're done with, to fixate on it, it's like I'm so ready to get on with the next thing but I do understand why people are eager to

hear about it."

Stewart, of course, is talking about the uncomfortable amount of attention she's received over her hit vampire thriller Twilight (being released on DVD this Saturday) and its sequel New Moon, which is about to start filming un-

"It feels so good to have something that you love received so hotly."

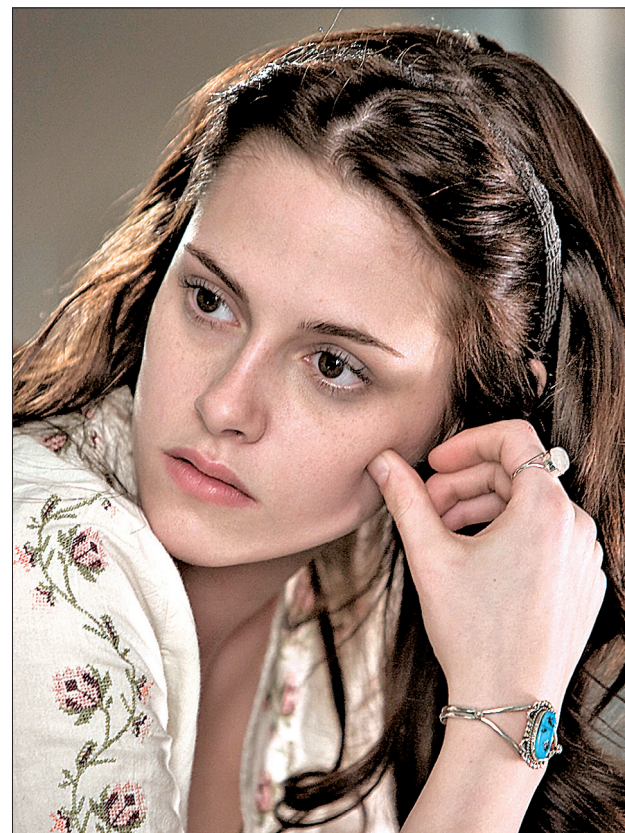
Kristen Stewart, on the Twilight films

der Chris Weitz (The Golden Compass) who took over directing duty from Catherine Hardwicke.

"Everyone's like 'oh, you're working with a man now, it's going to be completely different' (but) it's really neither here nor there," said Stewart. "I feel that he understands the characters that we're playing very well and that he's actually very invested in them; he's not just stoked to be on a successful movie."

Stewart has been pretty successful herself. Not only has she signed on to play rocker Joan Jett in the upcoming biopic The Runaways, but before she de-

parts to the set of New Moon, she's frantically answering questions about her latest comedy Adventureland (in theatres April 3) — a hilarious new film in which she plays Em, a carnival worker who must choose between young, naïve James or the married man she's been having an affair with. "She's fairly damaged; she's got an odd number of hang-ups," said Stewart on what attracted her to the role. "Anybody who has issues that they can't get over and you see the potential in them, all you want to do is (say) 'let that shine, let that come out' and that's what I love about the movie — when she's with (James) it actually does."



Kristen Stewart has received a lot of attention over her hit vampire thriller Twilight and its sequel, New Moon.

Entertainment in brief

TELEVISION NBC is launching a singing competition series destined to draw comparisons to Fox's American Idol. The project is called The Sing Off, and it's billed as the first a cappella singing-style reality series. "This is a fantastic feel-good series that viewers of all ages

can enjoy," said Paul Telegdy, executive vice-president alternative at NBC and Universal Media Studios. "To hear these singing groups re-create a popular song with only the sounds of their voices is truly amazing."

REUTERS

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CBS renews two comedies

CBS has closed a deal to renew the Warner Bros. TV-produced comedies *Two and a Half Men* and *The Big Bang Theory*, as the two companies also settled their \$49 million lawsuit. **HOLLYWOOD REPORTER**

Going Out**Mix of Six****Doubt on stage**

When: Through March 29
Where: Neptune Theatre
Neptune's play, *Doubt: A Parable* Project probes questions of faith, morality and doubt through the eyes of a nun suspicious of a priest. The play is a stage version of the Oscar-nominated film.

Serena Ryder

When: Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.
Where: The Schooner Room, Casino Nova Scotia
Canada's Serena Ryder is playing back-to-back shows in Halifax to support her latest album, *Is It O.K.* Ryder has garnered success and accolades across Canada and is touring through North America.

A Choral Celebration

When: Sunday at 2 p.m.
Where: St. Andrew's Church
Symphony Nova Scotia is back in session as they present a Baroque Concert titled *A Choral Celebration: Bach to Bach* under the direction of chorus master Jeff Joudrey. Soprano Shannon Mercer is joining the orchestra for the concert.

Halifax Rainmen

When: Sunday, 4 p.m.
Where: Halifax Metro Centre
The Halifax Rainmen are facing an uphill climb to make the post-season in the Premier Basketball League, and will need a win on Sunday against the Manchester Millrats to stay in the race.

Flight Dreams

When: Through March 29
Where: Art Gallery of Nova Scotia
The exhibition *Flight Dreams*, inspired by the story of Ken Barnes, an outstanding Canadian who loved to draw and dreamed of flying, explores the metaphor of flight and the far-reaching possibilities of imagination, innovation and creative thought.

DJ Armin van Buuren

When: Sunday night
Where: The New Palace
Armin van Buuren, voted the No. 1 DJ in the world, is capping off the weekend in style for Halifax with a high-energy performance at the Palace. Other acts on stage include Sean Keating and Glenn Morrison.

For more great events around the city, visit:
metronews.ca/entertainment

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Big Love
TELEVISION Big Love gave viewers a look inside Mormon sacred rituals earlier in the week, but did so with HBO first apologizing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



2 Cadbury Creme Eggs
FOOD The holiday is still a couple weeks away, but store shelves are already crammed fuller than the Easter bunny's basket — with Cadbury Creme Eggs, Lindt chocolate bunnies, and other candy treats sure to tempt shoppers.



3 Toronto Fashion Week
FASHION Toronto was the hub of action this week as hundreds of fashion fans gathered for the city's 10th annual fashion week. Runway shows included Joe Fresh (pictured right), Pink Tartan, Comrags, Andy Thé-Anh, Bustle, Linda Lundstrom and more. Even supermodel Iman praised Canada's style talent while in town for the season finale of Project Runway.



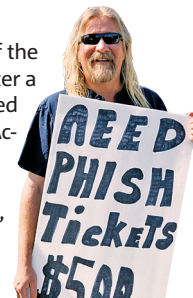
4 Barbie Mania
FASHION Designer David Dixon got rave reviews for his 40-piece fashion collection inspired by Barbie. The collection marks the doll's 50th anniversary and will be available for sale in September — so you too can dress like a Barbie girl.

5 Twilight hits shelves
DVD Twilight only screened in theatres a few months ago, but the DVD hits store shelves Saturday — giving every teen and tween the opportunity to pause the action and swoon at vampire Edward Cullen's brooding pouts.



6 Twitter
TECH More and more people and businesses are starting to tweet, including Metro, which launched at twitter.com/halifaxmetro on Monday. Not only that, but Metro went digital too, with BlackBerry and iPhone platforms — so you can get the top news and enter contests wherever you are. Visit metronews.ca to learn more.

7 Phish return
MUSIC A three-night celebration of the band Phish's return to the stage after a half decade away from music proved to be a good night for police too. According to reports, officers confiscated about \$1.2 million in illegal drugs and more than \$68,000 in cash from concertgoers, and arrested 194 Phish fans attending the Hampton, Va., concert last weekend.

**Germany to pull violent games, videos after shooting**

VIDEO German retail chain Galeria Kaufhof will pull violent films and video games from its shelves in response to the school shooting last week that

shocked and horrified the country.

Beginning in April, Kaufhof, one of the country's largest retailers, will no longer stock films or

games sold with an 18-plus rating, meaning material judged inappropriate for young people. The rating is usually reserved for violent material, including

horror films and first-person-shooter games. Violent video games have come under attack here in the wake of last week's shooting.

REUTERS

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When you dream alone, with your eyes shut, asleep, that dream is an illusion. But when we dream together, sharing the same dream, awake and with our eyes wide open, then that dream becomes reality!
— Source Unknown

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Going Out

Broadway thriving

If this is how a recession affects Broadway, well then, bring it on!

There was much gnashing of teeth in January when a record number of productions closed and left the rialto looking barren indeed. But since then,

some strange things have happened even as the economy continues to struggle to find a foothold.

Broadway grosses are holding their own, with fairly minimal box-office drop-offs, and some shows — notably the revival of

West Side Story — are doing \$1 million US a week even in previews.

More startling still, this spring features an impressive number of openings, with virtually every theater booked. By the time the season wraps at the end of

April, more shows will have opened during the 2008-09 campaign than in each of the past two years. What's more, the lineup of recently opened and upcoming productions is far more varied and exciting than usual.

REUTERS

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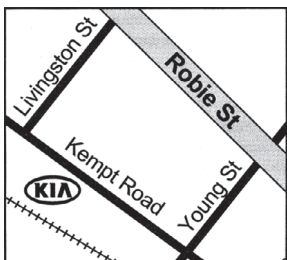


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Button DVD coming

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button will keep retailers curious no longer: Button DVDs will hit stores May 5. **REUTERS**

Television

Jon Stewart's slams called unfair

NBC Universal Chief Executive Jeff Zucker fired back at comedian Jon Stewart recently, saying it was "unfair" and "absurd" for the funnyman to criticize CNBC and question its coverage of financial news.

"Everybody wants to find a scapegoat. That's human nature," Zucker said during a keynote address at a media industry conference. "But to suggest that the business media or CNBC was responsible for what is going on now is absurd."

"Just because someone who mocks authority says something doesn't make it so," Zucker said, describing the comedian's comments as "completely out of line."

Zucker's comments are the latest salvo in a war of words with Stewart, who hosts the mock news program *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart on the Comedy Central cable television network.

Stewart has blasted CNBC's reporting of the finan-

"Listen, you knew what the banks were doing ... Now to pretend that this was some sort of crazy, once-in-a-lifetime tsunami that nobody could have seen coming is disingenuous at best and criminal at worst."

Jon Stewart

cial market meltdown, saying the channel was too cozy with corporate chiefs and key government officials.

Speaking later on Wednesday at the same event, Viacom chief executive Philippe Dauman defended Stewart, among the top stars of his company's Comedy Central network.

"He's very smart and has a connection with the zeit-

geist," Dauman said. "Jon Stewart's one of the few people on air who spoke to what people were thinking out there."

Stewart has lobbed particularly harsh criticism at CNBC commentator Jim Cramer, and last week invited him for an appearance on the comedy show, where he hammered the guest for his coverage of Wall Street.

"Listen, you knew what the banks were doing, yet were touting it for months and months," Stewart said during his March 12 show. "The entire network was. Now to pretend that this was some sort of crazy, once-in-a-lifetime tsunami that nobody could have seen coming is disingenuous at best and criminal at worst."

Zucker, speaking at the McGraw-Hill Media Summit in New York Wednesday, said that CNBC's reporters and commentators had done a "terrific" job and the network remained



Jon Stewart has criticized CNBC for failing to expose problems with banks and lenders.

a "go-to" place for financial news.

"It's unfair to CNBC and to the business media in general," Zucker said. "I

don't think you can blame what happened here on the business media."

Zucker said he felt the public was tired of hearing

the media blamed for its coverage of financial news. "Frankly, I already think you're seeing a backlash," he said.

REUTERS



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Celebrity Buzz

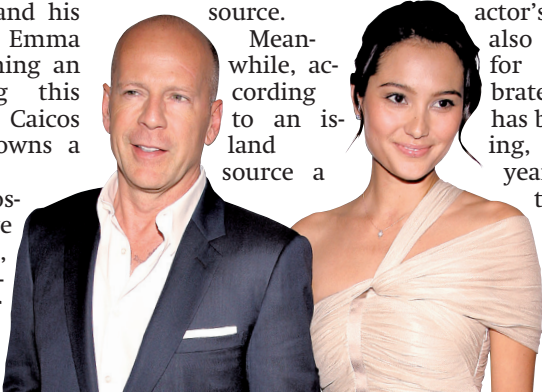
Willis preparing to wed?

MARRIAGE Is Bruce Willis ready to walk down the aisle again? People.com says that according to a source, the actor and his girlfriend, model Emma Heming, are planning an intimate wedding this week in Turks & Caicos where the actor owns a home.

As rumours of possible nuptials have surfaced online, Willis's ex-wife Demi Moore and her husband, Ashton Kutcher — who both maintain a close friendship with Willis — arrived on the island Saturday, according to another source.

Meanwhile, according to an island source a block of ocean view rooms and private villas have been reserved for Willis' guests at a hotel near the actor's home. There is also another reason for Willis to celebrate: The actor, who has been dating Heming, 32, since last year, turned 54 yesterday. Willis' rep had no comment, people.com adds.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Franco stalked on campus

PEOPLE James Franco is being hounded by fans at Columbia University, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Pineapple Express actor — who is studying for a master of fine arts degree in writing at the college — is finding it hard to walk around as there are always hoards of eager girls trying to catch a glimpse of him.

A source said: "Now that girls have figured out his schedule, every week there's a bigger crowd outside his lectures waiting just to see him leave. It's getting to be that there are so many people, it's embarrassing."

A university representative refused to comment on reports extra security teams will now be posted outside the actor's classes. The spokesman said: "We don't comment on matters of pop culture."

The 30-year-old actor graduated with a degree in English from the University of California, Los Angeles, last year. He then moved to New York to study at Columbia and at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where he takes filmmaking classes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Ex says he's sorry

DIVORCE Marilyn Manson has told ex-wife Dita Von Teese he made "a big mistake," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The burlesque performer claims her former spouse regularly contacts her to apologize for the breakdown of their year-long marriage. Von Teese said: "He has been in touch a little. The apologies come, and he was like, 'I made a big mistake.'"

She added to Inked magazine: "I'm like, 'Yeah, yeah, I know. Go ahead and say what you need to say to feel better and to sleep at night.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

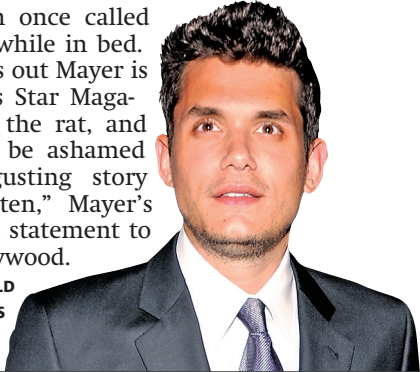


Mayer snuffs rumours of tell-all book

DENIAL John Mayer's publicist was quick to quash rumors started by Star magazine that the singer was contemplating writing a steamy tell-all about his time with Jennifer Aniston.

The magazine had reported that Mayer "can't keep his mouth shut" and was ready to spill some dirty secrets — like about how Aniston once called him "Brad" while in bed. Well, it turns out Mayer is no rat. "It is Star Magazine that is the rat, and they should be ashamed of the disgusting story they've written," Mayer's rep said in a statement to Access Hollywood.

METRO WORLD NEWS



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WHERE: Future Inns Halifax Hotel & Conference Centre
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Today
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-1° / -9°



Saturday
Partly cloudy
1° / -9°



Sunday
Partly cloudy
5° / -8°

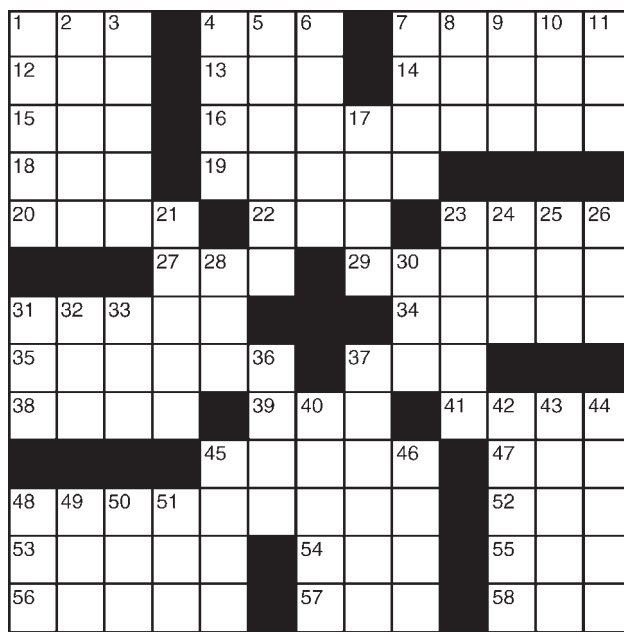


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Your Cold & Flu Report is available
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entertainment **35**

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Take Five



Crossword across

- 1 Suitable
4 Journal
7 Boasts
12 "Skip to My —"
13 Gorilla
14 Kidney-related
15 Under the weather
16 Eartha Kitt classic
18 — -relief
19 Calamari
20 Mosul's land
22 Work with
23 Crow's-nest cry
27 Multi-purpose truck
29 St. George's foe
31 Eagle's digs
34 "William Tell," e.g.
35 Plays for time
37 Royal insomnia cause
38 Huff and puff
39 "— the fields we go"
41 Galvanizing stuff
45 Dutch bloom
47 Long March leader
48 California city
52 Pump up the volume
53 Trojan War king
54 Luau side dish
55 "Gosh!"
56 Shriek barks
57 Conclusion
58 Mag. staffers

Crossword down

- 1 Excuse
2 On top of the world?
3 Oklahoma city
4 Colleen
5 Not transparent
6 Category
7 Actor Pitt
8 C.S.A. soldier
9 Literary collection
10 Chatter away
11 Crafty
17 Even
21 Colourful coverlet
23 Bolivian city
24 Census datum
25 Neither partner
26 "CSI" evidence
28 — Aviv
30 Caviar, essentially
31 Cleo's slayer
32 Greek vowel
33 Operated
36 Acerbic
37 Pen
40 Split to form a bond?
42 Mirror's offering
43 Appointed
44 Manages somehow
45 Midlothian millinery
46 Settled up
48 Agent
49 Exist
50 Zero
51 Spigot

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



6	1	5	8	9	4	3	2	7
9	3	2	7	1	5	8	6	4
7	8	4	3	2	6	5	1	9
1	4	8	2	5	7	6	9	3
5	7	3	4	6	9	2	8	1
2	9	6	1	3	8	4	7	5
4	5	1	6	7	2	9	3	8
3	2	9	5	8	1	7	4	6
8	6	7	9	4	3	1	5	2

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

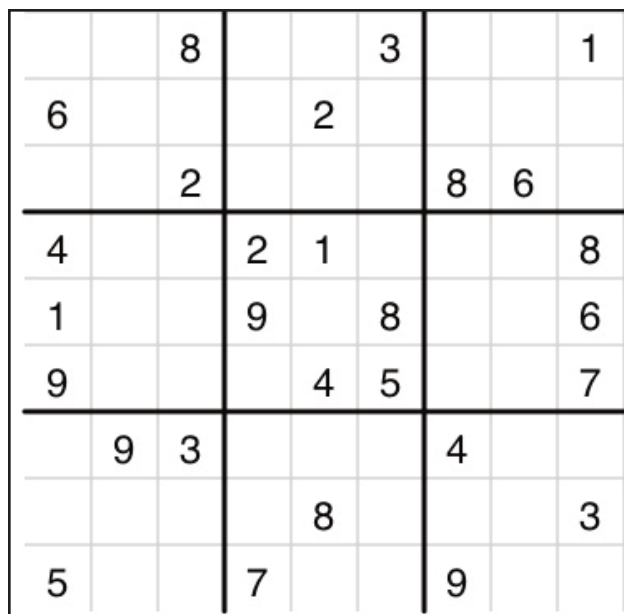
Under 13 minGenius
13-17 min.....Scholar

17-21 minSmart
21-25 minNot bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



Metro Recipe of the Day



Salmon Cakes with Creamy Tomato Sauce

INGREDIENTS:

1/4 cup (50 ml) sun-dried tomatoes (not oil packed)
4 garlic cloves, peeled
1/3 cup (75 ml) plain fat-free yogurt
1/2 tsp (2 ml) hot red pepper sauce
1 large baking potato, thinly sliced
1 can (14 3/4 ounces) pink salmon, drained
2 tbsp (25 ml) plus 1/2 cup plain dried bread crumbs
1/2 cup minced fresh dill
1 tbsp (15 ml) capers, rinsed and drained
1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt
1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil

METHOD:

1. Cook sun-dried tomatoes and 2 garlic cloves in small pot of boiling water for 3 minutes. Drain, reserving 1/3 cup (75 ml) cooking liquid. Transfer tomatoes and garlic to mini food processor. Add reserved cooking liquid, yogurt and hot pepper

sauce, and purée.

2. Meanwhile, cook potato and remaining 2 garlic cloves in medium pot of boiling water until tender, about 7 minutes. Drain and transfer to large bowl. With potato masher, mash potato and garlic.

3. Stir in salmon, 2 tbsp (25 ml) bread crumbs, dill, capers and salt. Shape salmon mixture into 8 cakes.

4. Heat oil in large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Dredge salmon cakes in remaining 1/2 cup bread crumbs. Add to skillet and sauté until golden brown and heated through, about 3 minutes per side. Serve with tomato sauce.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



You'll know when to do the right thing. People count on you to teach a good lesson. Ask a dumbfounded person to be patient.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



It's not possible to be too considerate. Someone is practical about a pathetic cry for help. A literal-minded person mocks your foibles.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21



Disregard fear and take action. A big mouth won't care about being overheard. Prosperity will astound disapproving parents.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



A trustworthy champion wants more say in the future. Tension will give way to joy. You'll find a new way to win someone over.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



Someone is trying to take advantage of you. Someone who adores you makes your dreams come true. You can be rather demanding about work.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



A versatile warrior gets singled out for praise. You'll realize that someone misses you. Confusion comes from a challenging opinion.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22



Your attitude can make or break a reunion. Time is running out to make a correction. A power surge enables you to communicate your needs.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



A brooding man makes a shocking prediction. A domineering worker seeks a companion. You contribute to other people's easy spirits.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23



Be scrupulous in organizing domestic affairs. Be tolerant of a family's reactions. Be glad that you listened to a sad anecdote.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18



Find your way out of a strange situation. A friend shows the power of unconditional love. You'll single-handedly clear the air.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



A severe argument leads to depression. Be understanding when someone seems to have lost his mind. Get back to the basics.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



Don't let anyone down. You can follow your dream or be miserable. Someone's fears are rising to the surface.

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Limited model shown

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GL with Sport Package model shown

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